SHONENJUMP MANGA

vol. 5

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

# NISEKOI

## False Love

I've never been good at drawing girls. I have to draw a lot of cute girls for *Nisekoi*, and I always find myself struggling for ideas. But I do enjoy drawing them.

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His current series, *Nisekoi*, is serialized in *Weekly Shonen Jump*.

# NISEKOI:
## False Love
### VOLUME 5
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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NISEKOI: FALSE LOVE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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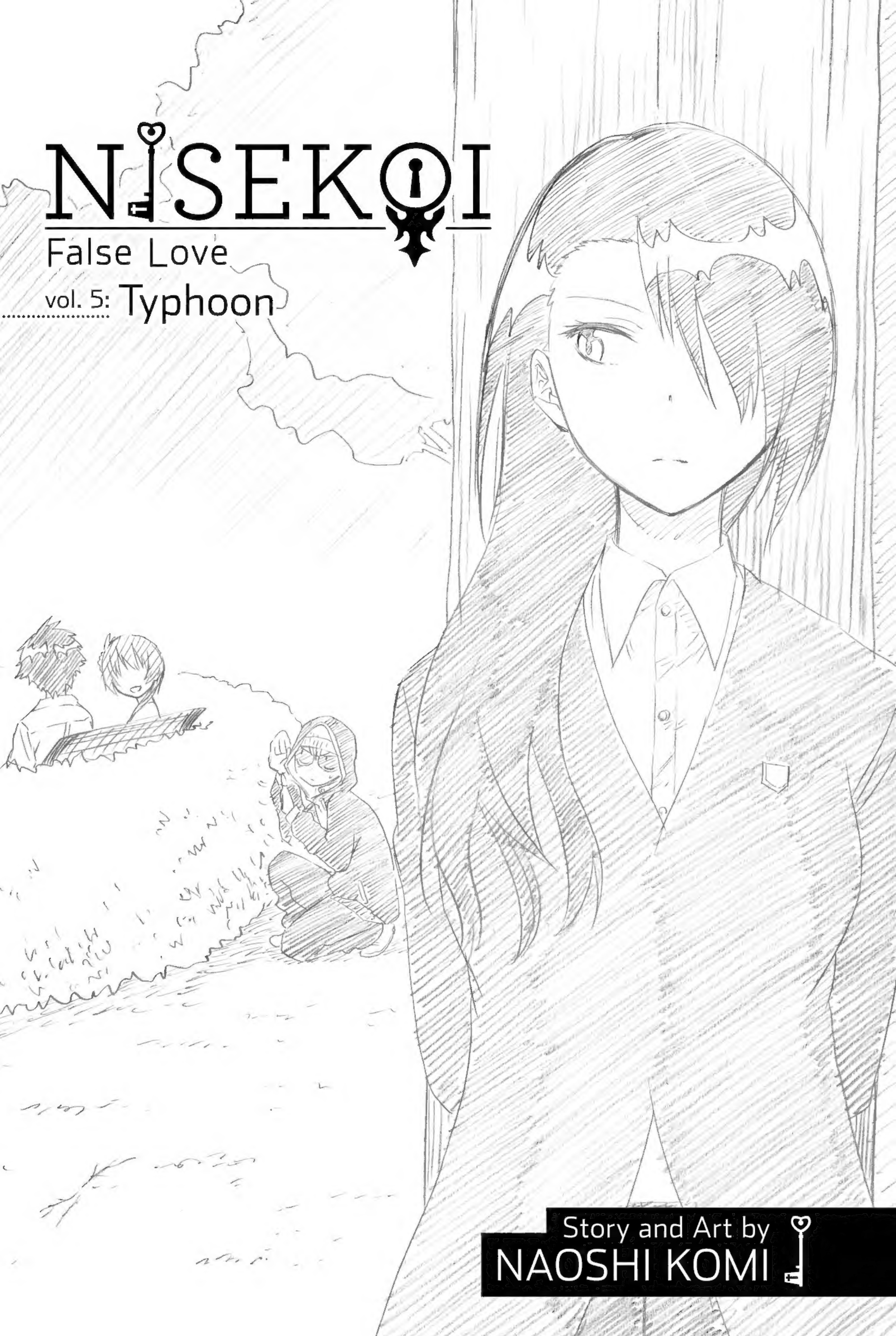
# NISEKOI

## False Love

## vol. 5: Typhoon



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# THE STORY THUS FAR

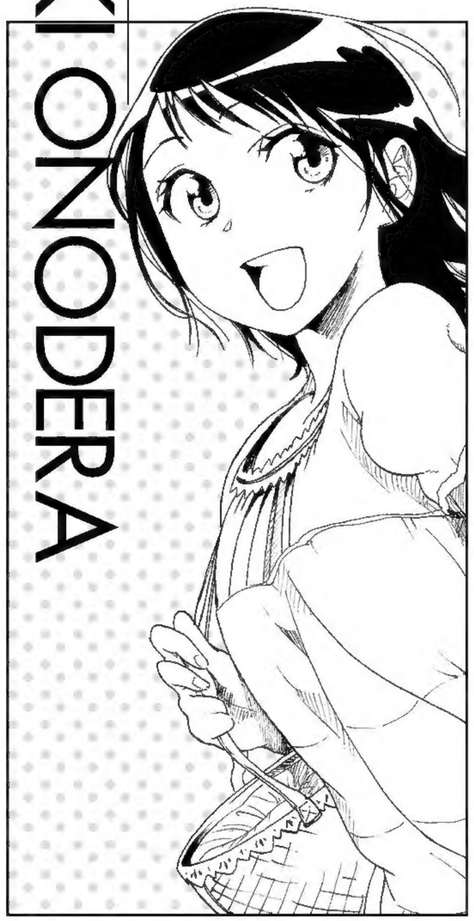
## RAKU ICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago. Has a crush on Kosaki.

## CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

## KOSAKI ONODERA



A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.

## MARIKA TACHIBANA

Daughter of the chief of police, Marika is Raku's fiancée, according to an agreement made by their fathers—an agreement Marika takes very seriously! Also has a key and remembers making a promise with Raku ten years ago.

### SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Adopted by Claude as a young child and raised as a top-notch assassin, Seishiro is 100% devoted to Chitoge. Often mistaken for a boy, Tsugumi's really a girl.

### SHU MAIKO

Raku's best friend. Outgoing and girl-crazy. Always tuned in to the latest gossip at school.

### RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

Raku Ichijo is an ordinary teen...who just happens to come from a family of yakuza! His most treasured item is a pendant he was given ten years ago by a girl whom he promised to meet again one day and marry.

It all starts when Raku is forced into a false relationship with Chitoge, the daughter of a rival gangster, to keep their families from shedding blood. Meanwhile, Chitoge remembers her first crush—a boy she met ten years ago. When Raku and Kosaki go shopping together to buy Chitoge's birthday present, Kosaki confesses to Raku that she also made a promise with a special someone ten years ago. Then Chitoge asks Raku if he's ever heard the phrase "Zawsze in Love." Just when it looks like Raku's on the verge of unraveling the mystery, a girl called Marika Tachibana shows up, claiming to be Raku's fiancée! She too has a key and remembers making a special promise...

# NISEKOI
## False Love

vol. 5: Typhoon

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# Chapter 35: Explosion

I WANT YOU TO BREAK UP...

...WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.

WH...

WHAT KIND OF DEAL IS THAT?!

AND HOW DOES SHE KNOW ABOUT RAKU'S PROMISE TEN YEARS AGO?!

I CAN'T DO THAT!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AND...

SHE HAS A KEY?!

...RAKU SAY?

WHAT WILL...

I'M SORRY, BUT ...IF THAT'S THE DEAL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FORGET IT.

I CAN'T JUST DUMP MY GIRL-FRIEND ...TO GET SOME-THING I WANT.

ARGH ...

MAYBE SHE'LL AT LEAST GIVE ME A CLUE?

DANG! I WANNA KNOW SO BAD!!

...MAKES ME EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO MAKE YOU MINE!

IT ALSO ...

AT THE VERY LEAST ...

IT MAKES ME LOVE YOU EVEN MORE.

OF COURSE. A MOST NOBLE RE-SPONSE.

...TO THE KIND OF TACKY PERSON WHO SPIES ON PEOPLE!

...I WON'T GIVE YOU UP...

ガサ…
RUSTLE

YEAH, BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HIRE SOMEONE!

That's what detectives are for!

EVER HEAR OF PRIVATE-EYE INVESTIGATION?

HMPH!

WELL, YOU ASKED FOR IT!

HUH?! CHITOGE?!

YOU FOLLOWED US HERE?!

BUSTED!

WELL, IF YOU MUST KNOW...

TEE-HEE!

OH, THAT?

ギク!! JOLT

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY?! HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RAKU'S PROMISE TEN YEARS AGO?

SHUP

?!

WHA...?! HUH?!

!!!

...MADE A VERY SPECIAL PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER TEN YEARS AGO!!

THE TWO OF US...

NOW, AS SOON AS POS-SIBLE...

...I'D LIKE YOU TO STOP SEEING MY FIANCÉ...

...FIANCÉ ?!

YOUR...

WH...?!

WHAT ?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!

SO, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...

BUT YOU SEE, WE'VE SHARED A POWERFUL BOND SINCE CHILD-HOOD!

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!

OH?

WELL, THAT DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM GOING ON A DATE WITH ME, DID IT?

NNG...

NOW, IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO STOP INTER-FERING...

YOU SEE, DARLING HERE...

YEAH, WELL THINK AGAIN!

...HAP-PENS TO BE *MY BOY-FRIEND !!*

WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO KISS, I BELIEVE?

W-WE WERE NOT!

COME, RAKU DEAREST! LET'S CONTINUE OUR DATE!!

...I DON'T THINK YOU'RE AT ALL SUITABLE FOR MY DARLING RAKU!

TO BE COM-PLETELY FRANK ...

WHAT?!

WE WERE HAVING SUCH A LOVELY TIME BEFORE WE WERE SO RUDELY INTERRUPTED !!

GRIN

OH!

UH... NO, I...

YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND THE GIRL YOU MADE THE PROMISE WITH. WELL, HOORAY FOR YOU!!

OH, I SEE. ISN'T THIS NICE, DARLING?

ゴゴゴゴ GRRRRR

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, RIGHT? HAVE YOURSELF A BLAST, ROMEO!!

DON'T HOLD BACK FOR MY SAKE!

Why the violence?

STOMP

スカ STOMP

I MEAN, LIKE I'D EVER FALL FOR A TURKEY LIKE HIM!

WELL, THAT'S SURE A RELIEF!

...I WASN'T THE GIRL HE MADE HIS PROMISE WITH.

I GUESS...

THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND! FANTASTIC! YIPPEE! HOORAY!

DROOLING OVER THAT BIMBO LIKE A TOTAL IDIOT!!

HMPH! THAT JERK!!

ズン

SHF

SHF

ズン

...SO ANNOYED?

WHY AM I...

C

BUT...

I'M AFRAID I JUST RE-MEMBERED SOMEWHERE I HAVE TO BE...

ER, ACTUAL-LY, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, RAKU DEAREST ...

HUH?

OH, RAKU DEAREST!! NOW THAT WE'RE RID OF THAT PESKY NUISANCE ...

...WHERE SHALL WE GO NEXT?

I'll never understand that girl!

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

H-HUH?

SEE YOU AT SCHOOL!

I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN SOON.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR A LOVELY DAY.

W-WAIT!

HUH?

HUH?

I DON'T GET IT.

HOW COME I'M ALONE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

TOTAL SOLITUDE

ン...

HOPEFULLY SHE HASN'T GONE FAR...

HO, BOY.

TAK

TAK

TAK

HUH?

WHO'S THAT WOMAN?

SHE WAS AT SCHOOL YESTER-DAY TOO.

DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO BE SO CLOSE...

OH!

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T OVERDO IT. YOU KNOW HOW FRAIL YOU ARE.

THE DOCTORS SAID TO TAKE IT EASY.

コホ…
KOFF

I'M FINE.

I'M ALL RIGHT. JUST A BIT DIZZY.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MIS-TRESS?

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

…JUST A JOKE?

SO THAT WASN'T…

I'M AFRAID I HAVE A MOST FRAIL CONSTITU-TION...

WAIT A SEC...

FRAIL?

I WANTED MY DARLING RAKU TO SEE ME!

I DIDN'T WANT MY FACE TO BE HIDDEN.

WHY DIDN'T YOU WEAR A HAT?

YOU LET YOURSELF GET TOO MUCH SUN.

I COULD-N'T DO THAT!

フゥ... HAHH...

YOU WAIT HERE AND REST.

I'LL FETCH YOUR MEDI-CINE.

YOU OKAY?

ARE YOU OKAY?

...?

OH! AREN'T YOU THOUGHT-FUL!

I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU!

YOU FOR-GOT THIS.

YOUR HOUSE IS THE OTHER WAY, IS IT NOT?

WHY, RAKU DEAR-EST! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

Thank you so much!

YOU MUST HAVE MIS-UNDER-STOOD.

DID I SAY THAT?

?

...

SO, YOU REALLY ARE FRAIL, *HUH?*

YOU TAKE MEDI-CINE?

I'M JUST A TOUCH ANEMIC. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I'M FINE. JUST A LITTLE DIZZY SPELL...

OH, DEAR! YOU OVER-HEARD?

YOU'RE AS KINDHEARTED AS EVER, AREN'T YOU, RAKU DEAREST!

IT'S AWFULLY SWEET OF YOU TO BE SO CONCERNED.

WELL...

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, THAT'S FINE.

WHY'S SHE TRYING TO PLAY IT OFF?

PAR-DON ME...

...BUT MAY I ASK YOU A QUES-TION?

WHAT?

BLRF"

WHAT IS IT YOU SEE IN HER?

WHAT ON EARTH DREW YOU TO HER, RAKU DEAREST?

HOLD ON!! THAT'S NOT EXACTLY TRUE!

SHE ISN'T AT ALL LADY-LIKE...

SHE'S RUDE, SHORT-TEMPERED, AND VIOLENT...

I JUST CAN'T COMPRE-HEND IT.

Ono-dera's the one I really like!

DRAT. NOT THIS AGAIN!

WELL, THEN... ...

BUT...

AND ALL SHE EVER DOES IS BAG ON ME!!

SHE GOES INTO VIOLENT, UNPRE-DICTABLE RAGES ...

SHE'S AS VIOLENT AS A STREET THUG AND STRONG AS A GORILLA!

SHE ISN'T JUST RUDE. SHE'S SUPER-ULTRA RUDE!!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ"

GRRRRRR

SHE'S BAD AT EXPRESSING HERSELF...SO IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S REALLY THINKING...

EVERY NOW AND THEN...

...I THINK SHE'S A GOOD PERSON.

...BUT DEEP DOWN ...

...SHE'S NOT SO BAD.

STILL!

I'M SURE ONCE YOU REMEM-BER ME, RAKU DEAREST ...

SPEAK-ING OF WHICH ...

OH, RIGHT ...

OH...

I SEE.

WAIT... DID I REALLY JUST SAY THAT?

Maybe I went too far.

I MEAN, I'M POSITIVE I'VE NEVER MET A GIRL WHO TALKS LIKE YOU BEFORE.

ZING

I HONESTLY HAVE ZERO RECOLLECTION OF YOU WHATSOEVER.

ZING

...WHY DO YOU EVEN LIKE ME?

WHA

AND BESIDES ...

PAH

SO I DON'T REALLY GET IT.

I MEAN, I APPRECIATE IT AND ALL...

...BUT I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I DID TO DESERVE IT.

ER, DID YOU HEAR ...A VOICE JUST NOW?

HUH ?

YOU DONE TOTALLY FORGOT ME?

キ?..!?
JOLT

AN' COM-PLETELY FORGOT ME?!

DON'T TELL ME YOU DONE GONE ...

I BEEN CARRYIN' 'ROUND MEMORIES OF YOU FOR TEN YEARS...

...AND YOU'RE TELLIN' ME YOU DONE TOTALLY FORGOT ME?!

I KNOW YOU AIN'T TELLIN' ME YOU DONE TOTALLY FORGOT ME!

ビリ KRAKLE

ビリ KRAKLE

ビリ KRAKLE

GRRR

NOW YOU'RE TELLIN' ME...

...YOU DONE TOTALLY FORGOT ME?!

...SO I GREW MY HAIR LONG...

RAKKY, YOU TOLD ME YOU LIKED LONG HAIR..

...AN' LEARNED TO TALK ALL PROPER-LIKE!!

I WORKED SO HARD AT IT...

BUT...

GASP
"...

THE WAY YOU TALK...

YOU'RE ... YOU ...

...

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ...

...!!

GASP "...!!

HEY, RAKKY ...

WHAT KINDA GALS DO YOU LIKE, RAKKY?

MARI
?

# Chapter 36: Three Keys

ARE YOU...

...MARI?

I PROMISED MYSELF I'D NEVER SPEAK THAT WAY IN FRONT OF YOU, RAKU DEAREST...

...

DEAR ME.

I REMEMBER SHE WAS ALWAYS SICK...

YES...

I THINK I REMEMBER NOW!

I REMEMBER BEING GOOD FRIENDS WITH A LITTLE GIRL WHO TALKED LIKE THAT!

...THAT IT MADE YOU REMEMBER ME.

HOW IRONIC, THOUGH ...

I WAS A SICKLY CHILD...

...AND MY FATHER HAD BROUGHT ME TO A HEALTH FACILITY IN THE COUNTRY, WHERE THE AIR WAS FRESH.

YOU AND I FIRST MET...

...ONE SUMMER TEN YEARS AGO.

UNTIL ONE DAY...

KOFF KOFF

コホ… コホ…

I WAS SO BORED, ALONE IN MY ROOM ALL THE TIME.

!?

...SO I NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO PLAY WITH OTHER CHILDREN.

I WAS ALWAYS SICK...

!?

YES... I REMEMBER NOW.

IF THAT WAS TEN YEARS AGO DURING SUMMER, IT WAS THE SAME SUMMER I MET ONODERA AND CHITOGE...

YOU BROUGHT ME THINGS YOU'D FIND IN THE MOUNTAINS AS GIFTS. YOU ENTERTAINED ME.

...YOU CAME TO VISIT ME EVERY DAY.

WHEN YOU FOUND OUT, RAKU DEAREST....

My pa calls me Mari.

Your pa? Okay. Mari it is.

Your name's Marika, huh?

HEY, RAKKY ...

WHAT KINDA GALS D'YOU LIKE?

HMM ? GIRLS ?

I'LL MAKE A PROMISE WITH HIS PA FOR YOU TWO TO GET MARRIED.

REALLY ?

THEN ONE DAY, MY FATHER ASKED ME...

YOUR FRIEND-SHIP MEANT SO MUCH TO ME, RAKU DEAREST.

MARI, YOU'VE TAKEN A SHINE TO THAT BOY?

10 ? ...! PAH!

GIRLY GIRLS, I GUESS.

Y'KNOW, LIKE GIRLS WITH LONG HAIR..

GEE, I DUNNO.

?

ALWAYS ANTICIPATING THE DAY WE WOULD BE REUNITED...

...THE SOLEMN OATH WE'D EX-CHANGED ...

MY ONLY COM-FORT IS...

I STROVE TO BECOME A PARAGON OF WOMANLY CHARMS FOR MY BELOVED!

I LEARNED TO SPEAK PROPER-LY!

I TOOK LESSONS TO BETTER MYSELF!

FROM THAT DAY FOR-WARD, I SPARED NO EFFORT!

WE HAD OUR PICTURE TAKEN TOGETHER THE DAY WE SAID GOOD-BYE...

...TO REMIND US OF OUR PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER.

I JUST ...

FORGIVE ME FOR BEING OVER-BEARING.

...WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW I FEEL.

...

I...

LITTLE THINGS I SAID AND DID...

...MEANT SO MUCH TO SOMEBODY?

...

ALL THAT...

...JUST FOR ME?

AND ...

...THERE'S NO NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO REMEMBER.

HUH?

SURE THERE IS!

IT'S PERFECTLY UNDER-STANDABLE THAT YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME.

NOW ...

DON'T FEEL BAD.

I WANT YOU...

...TO REMEMBER ME FROM NOW ON!

WAIT... JUST A MINUTE! IF I FOCUS EVERY BRAIN CELL ON REMEMBERING...

NNG...

I APPRE-CIATE THE EFFORT, BUT...

INSTEAD...

...IT'S REALLY NOT NECES-SARY.

THAT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.

I WANT YOU TO REALLY GET TO KNOW...

...THE WOMAN I'VE BECOME FOR YOU!

OH?

WHERE?

SO, FOR STARTERS... YOU HAVE A GRAIN OF RICE ON YOUR CHEEK, RAKU DARLING.

I'll get it for you.

...YOU DON'T FORGET ME AGAIN.

I'LL MAKE SURE...

SMILE
ニコ…!

チュッ
SMAK

HUH?

...NUMBER 1!

UNFOR-GETTABLE MEMORY...

Oh?

That won't be necessary. I feel much better!

Won't you be taking your medi-cine?

GOOD DAY!

SO LONG, RAKU DEAREST! SEE YOU TOMORROW!

ﾀｯ…! SHOOP

WHAAAAAAT?!

WHAT?

...TEN YEARS AGO?!

WE ALL MET...

NO...

NOT AT ALL!

YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

APPARENTLY, WE WERE REALLY CLOSE FRIENDS.

THAT'S WHAT YOUR DAD SAID.

YUP.

REALLY? ME TOO!!

THEN AGAIN...

THE MOMENT I SAW YOU, I HAD THIS FEELING WE'D BE GOOD FRIENDS, CHITOGE...

BY THE WAY, WHY'RE YOU SO FLUSHED?

Are you sick?

HUH?!

I... I'M NOT FLUSHED!!

...THESE ARE...

SO...

I DUNNO... IT JUST NEVER SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT TIME...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US SOONER? THIS IS A BIG DEAL!

HEY!

...TO THE MYSTERY?

JA

JING!

...THE KEYS...

DON'T ASK ME!
I ONLY REMEMBER MAKING A PROMISE WITH ONE GIRL!
WHAT'S THE DEAL?
WE ALL MADE SOMEONE A PROMISE AND SAVED A SPECIAL KEY?
WE ALL MET DAR-LING TEN YEARS AGO...
ME EITHER! I DON'T GET IT...
THIS IS SO WEIRD. I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE ONE TOO, KOSAKI!
YOU REMEMBER IT?
NONE OF YOU REMEMBER THE PROMISE?
ME EITHER!
I TOTALLY DON'T REMEM-BER!
WHAT DID WE PROMISE, ANYWAY?
...Remembers, but isn't saying.
WE PROMISED TO GET MARRIED, OBVIOUSLY!!
WELL, OF COURSE!

EVEN IF HE NO LONGER REMEM-BERS.

THAT'S WHAT RAKU DEAREST AND I PROMISED EACH OTHER WHEN WE PARTED...

カ"ン!!
SKWEE

!!!

I ASSUMED YOUR PROMISES WERE ALL THE SAME...

OH!

WHAT'S WRONG?

MARRIAGE?

DID ICHIJO AND I ACTUALLY PROMISE EACH OTHER THAT?

IF WE DID...

ドキドキ...
LUB DUB
LUB DUB

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FOUND HER!

WELL, DARLING! DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU REMEMBER MAKING A FAREWELL PROMISE WITH SOME GIRL?

I STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE!

ER... I DON'T KNOW!

I KNOW IT WAS SOME-THING IMPORTANT, BUT...

MARRIAGE?!

IT CAN'T BE!

LUB DUB
LUB DUB
ドキドキ...

スリ
スリ
NUZZLE
NUZZLE

OH, RIGHT... YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T TELL.

HOW 'BOUT A HINT?

ER...

YOU SAID YOU HAD ALL THE ANSWERS...

YOU KNOW, RIGHT?

SO WHY ARE THERE THREE KEYS?

?

I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

I'M SORRY.

...ABOUT ANYONE ELSE HAVING A KEY!

THIS IS A SURPRISE TO ME TOO.

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD...

YES. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

WHAT?

B-B-BUT... YOU MADE SUCH A BIG PRODUCTION OF KNOWING THE TRUTH!

That's what I wanted you to remember!

110P...!!

PAH!

I KNOW HOW MUCH LOVE I PUT INTO THE PROMISE I MADE YOU, RAKU DEAREST!

WHY, OF COURSE I DO! ♡

I DO REMEMBER THAT WHEN WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER...

...EVERY NOW AND THEN, YOU'D MENTION OTHER PLAYMATES, RAKU DEAREST...

SO, YOU DON'T ACTU-ALLY KNOW THE TRUTH?

...

THEN I GUESS WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR ICHIJO'S PENDANT TO BE FIXED...

SO ONE OF THESE KEYS IS THE REAL ONE, AND THE OTHERS ARE FAKES?

HMM...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYONE ELSE'S...

I ONLY KNOW ABOUT MY PROMISE.

THIS IS ANOTHER OF YOUR...

RIGHT.

NICE TRY.

WE'VE ALREADY SEALED IT WITH A KISS!

A KISS?!

WHAT?!

WE'RE DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER, RAKU DEAREST!

NO MATTER WHAT HAP-PENS...

NO!! NO!! NO!!

WAIT... YOU ACTUALLY DID KISS?! WHAT?!

You are still a playboy!

LOOK, IT WAS JUST A PECK ON THE CHEEK...

#5 KSHH #5 KSHH

YOU BARELY JUST MET HER, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

YOU DID KISS HER! YOU DIRTY PIG! WHAT A PLAYBOY!

SHE SNUCK UP ON ME! I WAS DEFENSE-LESS!

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF THE MATTER, ONO-DERA?

WHO DO YOU THINK'S BETTER FOR RAKU, KOSAKI?

HUH?!

...YOU MINX!

OH, REALLY? YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE HITTING ON ANOTHER GIRL'S BOY-FRIEND...

HA! DARLING IS BETTER OFF WITH ME!

NO, ME!

BETTER A MINX THAN A GORILLA!

I THINK THERE'S WELL NO ... QUESTION WHO'S THE BEST MATCH FOR RAKU DEAREST.

DO YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM TOO?

AFTER ALL, YOU MAY HAVE PLEDGED MARRIAGE TO EACH OTHER WHEN YOU WERE CHILDREN.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MY DARLING RAKU?

ONO-DERA...

WHA ...?

I, UH... WELL...

ER... UM...

WAIT! FIRST THINGS FIRST...

BUT RIGHT NOW...

...WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS.

WELL... WE MIGHT HAVE SAID THAT WHEN WE WERE CHILD-REN...

GOOD FRIENDS, HUH? KIND OF DISAPPOINTED, BUT IT COULD BE WORSE.

No way! Kosaki's mine!

Let's you and I be friends!

SHEESH! THAT WAS AWKWARD...

FOR SURE.

SO, I DID MEET ICHIJO WHEN WE WERE KIDS!

BUT MAYBE HE'S INTO CHITOGE NOW...

HE MUST'VE BEEN MY FIRST CRUSH!

ギャー YAP ギャー YAP

HA! SOUR GRAPES, ANYONE?

WELL, WHAT DOES IT MATTER, ANYWAY?

WE WERE JUST LITTLE KIDS!

SHUT UP!!

THIS ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE!

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS GETTING CLOSE TO THE TRUTH...

GEEZ.

I GUESS IT'S A QUESTION OF THE PAST...

...VERSUS THE PRESENT.

BUT ONODERA'S THE GIRL I LIKE NOW.

...IS THE GIRL I MADE THE PROMISE WITH?

ONE OF THESE THREE...

SHUT YOUR DANG MOUTH!

EXCEPT THAT HE DIDN'T REMEMBER YOU AT ALL.

MY DARLING RAKU AND I WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER BY DESTINY...

MY KEY'S GOT TO BE THE REAL ONE.

WAIT A SEC...

ER... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

WHAT WAS THAT?

Hey, where are you going?
Hey. What did you just say?
SHP SHP
スタコラ..

# Chapter 37: Greeting

MAY I PRESENT YOU TO MY FATHER TOMOR-ROW?

IN ANY CASE, RAKU DEAREST ...

YOU NEED TO PROPERLY GREET HIM.

WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE TIMELINE OF OUR WEDDING.

WHAT?

BESIDES, SOMETIMES MARRIAGE PRECEDES LOVE!

...THAT DOESN'T VOID THE AGREE-MENT OUR FATHERS MADE.

EVEN SO...

I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO GET MARRIED!

DID YOU TELL HIM I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS ENGAGE-MENT BUSI-NESS?

I didn't sign on for this!!

WE NEED TO WHAT?!

YES. HE KNOWS.

I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU THERE!

WHY, KIRI-SAKI!

THAT'S MY BOY-FRIEND YOU'RE TALKING TO...

...BUT YOU'VE REALLY GOT SOME NERVE!

EXCUSE ME, TACHI-BANA...

THAT MAKES IT VOID!

DARLING HERE NEVER APPROVED THIS ENGAGE-MENT, RIGHT?

I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT TRUE.

NO...

YOUR HUSBAND?!

THANK YOU FOR BEING SO GOOD TO MY HUSBAND!

GLARE
ギロン!!
FLINCH
ビクッ!!!
IF YOU REALLY WISH TO OBJECT, I SUGGEST YOU SPEAK TO MY FATHER IN PERSON.
THERE'S A LONG HISTORY OF PARENTS ARRANGING MARRIAGES FOR THEIR CHILDREN.
THE ENGAGE-MENT IS OFF!
TELL HER FATHER STRAIGHT OUT!
So true to life!
Y'KNOW, HER ACTING'S GOTTEN A LOT MORE CON-VINCING LATELY...
EASY FOR HER TO SAY!
ニコ GRIN
ニコ GRIN
SIGH...
WHY DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?
OH...
HERE WE ARE, RAKU DEAREST! THIS IS WHERE I LIVE!

THE TOP FLOOR OF THIS BUILD-ING...

...IS OUR HOME!

A WHOLE FLOOR?!

Not that my house is small, but...

LOOM

ど…

と!

BY THE WAY, TACHI-BANA...

OH, NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL!

CALL ME MARIKA, PLEASE!

OH NO, NOT AT ALL!

IS HE PRETTY SCARY?

I brought some sweets as a gift...

ER... WHAT'S YOUR FATHER LIKE, ANYWAY?

HE'S THE CHIEF OF POLICE, RIGHT?

OH... THAT'S A RELIEF.

I'M SURE HE'LL LOVE YOU, RAKU DEAREST!

I FEEL A LITTLE BETTER, THEN.

SORT OF THE DOTING DADDY TYPE.

HE'S EVER SO GENTLE AND KIND. HE ALWAYS CALLS ME MARI.

YOU'RE HOME EARLY.

OH. IT'S YOU, MARI.

SCARIER THAN A YAKUZA, ACTUALLY ...

HE LOOKS LIKE A YAKUZA!

---Y-Y-YIKES! THAT'S THE SCARIEST DUDE I EVER SAW!!

HELLO, DADDY! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO FIND YOU!

YOU LOOK MORE LIKE YOUR PA THAN EVER.

SO, YOU'RE ICHIJO'S BOY. YOU'VE GROWN, THAT'S FER SURE.

ゴゴゴ GRRR

ゴゴゴ GRRR

ER... UM...

I... UH IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

I...

!!

OH.

ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MR. RAKU ICHIJO, MY FIANCÉ!

DADDY DEAR-EST...

Isn't he dreamy?

犯罪撲滅

正義

ER... HE'S FINE, SIR.

和

交通安全

HAVE A SEAT. LET'S CHAT, SHALL WE?

HOW'S YOUR PA?

Defending the peace or something?

DID YOU GET IT IN THE LINE OF DUTY?

YES.

YES... UM... I-I-IT'S VERY MANLY, SIR..

ER...

SEE THIS SCAR?

ボソ... MUTTER

OF COURSE, WE BOTH DEVELOPED A HEALTHY RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S ABILITIES THAT DAY, THOUGH OUR PATHS IN LIFE ARE DIFFERENT...

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY.

BUT TO THIS DAY, MY DREAM IS TO SLAM THAT DIRTY LOWLIFE BEHIND BARS!

AUGH!! W-WHY, DAD? WHY?

SEEING YOU MAKES IT STING A BIT FROM THE MEMORY.

YOUR PA GAVE IT TO ME.

ゴゴゴ GRRRR

ゴゴゴ GRR

ANY-WAY...

MOVING RIGHT ALONG...

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM I'M CALLING THE ENGAGEMENT OFF?!

HE'S WAY MORE YAKUZA-LIKE THAN THE YAKUZA AT HOME!

WAAAH! HE'S GOTTA BE THE SCARIEST DUDE ON THE PLANET!

BRLF!! W-WAIT! I-I-I...

IT TURNS OUT, RAKU DEAREST FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME!

NOW, I 'PRECIATE YOUR DEVOTION TO MY DAUGHTER ALL THESE YEARS, SON...

TIME SURE FLIES. YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO BE MARRIED ALREADY, RIGHT, MARIKA?

!!

NO, DADDY! ACTU-ALLY...

YEEEEEK!!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT FORGETTIN' MY DAUGHTER?

KHHHRR

WELL, SON?

GRRRRR

KRAKLE

FOR-GOT?

HMM.

THAT RAISES A QUES-TION...

HE'LL PAY FOR THIS THE NEXT TIME OUR PATHS CROSS!

SO MUCH FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN MEN!

THAT DIRTY DOG...

Eep!

YOUR PA DIDN'T TELL YA...

I SEE.

GLRFF!!

HE HAS A GIRL-FRIEND!

...YOU LIKE SOMEONE ELSE, THEN?

DON'T TELL ME...

ER... WELL, I...

LUB DUB

EASY NOW, DADDY.

IT ISN'T RAKU DEAREST'S FAULT!

Y-YIKES! W-W-WAIT!!

YOU GOT A LOTTA NERVE, COMIN' HERE LIKE THIS...

A GIRL-FRIEND?

FLICKER

FLICKER

FLICKER

HMPH.

IF YOU SAY SO, BUT...

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO WIN HIM AWAY FROM HIS GIRL-FRIEND.

IF I CAN'T DO THAT, I'M NOT WORTHY OF HIM ANYWAY!

BESIDES ...

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.

TELL ME...

ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS TOUCHY-FEELY WITH MY DAUGHTER?

HUH? I...I...

I MEAN, SHE'S THE ONE WHO...

OH, RAKU DEAREST! THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SHY!

PLEASE DON'T WORRY! WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY CHASTE AND PROPER RELATIONSHIP!

YES!

AAAUGH!!

DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE JUMPIN' THE GUN A BIT?

HEY, PUNK...

TWITCH

AUGH! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT!!

WE'VE ALREADY KISSED, DADDY!

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE IN HERE!!

W-WAIT!

WH-WHAT?!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

I HAVEN'T EVEN OFFERED YOU SOME TEA!

OH DEAR!

You're going now?!

!

I'VE GOT TO GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS SOMEHOW AND EXPLAIN MYSELF...

THIS IS REALLY, REALLY BAD!

THIS IS BAD.

だら PLIP PLIP だら

AHEM!

ビクッ JOLT

ゴホン!!

RAKU AND I TALKED ABOUT THAT...

RAKU AND I DID THIS...

TO THIS DAY, THE MOST TRIVIAL LITTLE THINGS.

EVEN AFTER TEN YEARS.

SHE STILL TALKS ABOUT YOU.

?

...MARIKA...

MY DAUGHTER...

...AND I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT MATTERS.

SHE'S HAPPY...

EVERYTHING YOU TOOK TO THE HOSPITAL.

SHE TREASURES ALL THE STUFF YOU BROUGHT HER...

...YOU DON'T FORGET ME AGAIN.

I'LL MAKE SURE...

THAT STUFF WAS SO IMPORTANT TO HER?

WOW, REALLY?

NOT YOUR DAUGHTER.

THE TRUTH IS...

I LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.

...

I'M SORRY, SIR.

I...

I'M REALLY SORRY.

SO...

...I'VE CARED ABOUT THIS PERSON FOR A LONG TIME.

NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE MARIKA...

IT'S JUST THAT...

NGH...

...

YOU'RE FINALLY BEING STRAIGHT WITH ME.

GOOD.

WHAT ?!

WELL, UM... ACTU-ALLY...

SO, IS THIS SPECIAL SOMEONE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND ?

BESIDES, YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO SOW SOME WILD OATS.

AIN'T EASY TALKING STRAIGHT TO SOMEONE OLDER THAN YOU.

FORGET IT.

ANYWAY, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO MAKE MY DAUGHTER HAPPY ONE DAY.

A PROM-ISE IS A PROM-ISE.

NO! I'M NOT!

YOU SOME KINDA PLAY-BOY, KID?

SHE AIN'T?

THERE'S A REASON... IT'S JUST REALLY COMPLI-CATED!!

ゴゴ GRRR

ゴゴ GRRR

WELL, I GUESS IT SORTA WORKED OUT...

PHEW!

MARI'S A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.

TEE-HEE! I'M SO GLAD YOU LIKED HIM!

BUT HE'S KINDA SCARY.

HE'S A GOOD FA-THER. HE OBVIOUSLY REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU.

...TALK-ING WITH DADDY?

HOW WAS IT...

BUT OF COURSE, DARLING RAKU!!

DON'T REALLY GET WHY YOU'RE SO INTO ME, BUT WHAT-EVER!

IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY IMPRES-SIVE.

YOU JUST NEVER LET UP, DO YOU?

AFTER ALL, HE MAY BE YOUR FUTURE FATHER-IN-LAW!

BLRF 7"!!

ALL I CAN DO IS MAKE EVERY EFFORT...

...TO TELL YOU HOW I FEEL AND BECOME THE WOMAN YOU WANT.

IS THIS SOME KIND OF MES-SAGE?

!

ESPECIALLY LOVE.

NOTHING WORTH HAVING COMES EASILY.

I CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT, RAKU DEAREST!

GO AHEAD! JUST NAME IT! ♡

OH, RAKU MY LOVE!

TELL ME ONE MORE TIME!

WHAT KIND OF GIRL DO YOU LIKE NOW?

I THINK YOU'RE PLENTY ATTRACTIVE THE WAY YOU ARE, TACHIBANA.

WELL, REALLY...

HONESTLY, I'M REALLY FLATTERED BY ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS, CHANGING THE WAY YOU TALK AND EVERY-THING...

IT'S REALLY IMPRES-SIVE.

MOST PEOPLE COULDN'T DO ALL THAT.

I'M

...THE WAY YOU TALK NOW AND THE WAY YOU TALKED BEFORE ...

BE-SIDES ... WITH EITHER LONG HAIR OR SHORT HAIR..

...I THINK YOU'RE PLENTY CUTE.

MOST GUYS WOULD GO FOR EITHER STYLE, I'M SURE.

HUH?

GASP

HUH?

ﾅｯ!!

BLUSH

ﾅｯ

BLUSH

ﾅｯ

ﾅｯ…!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

OH, RAKKY! I...I...

YOU'RE LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON ALL OF A SUDDEN!!

WH-WHAT'S COME OVER YOU?

WAIT... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE... BASHFUL?

I AIN'T... I AIN'T BASHFUL!

I CAN'T TAKE IT!!

HUH?!

ドヒュン!!

VOOSH

I MEAN I... ...

QUIT LOOKIN' AT ME, WOULDJA?

WH...WHAT?

Aagh!! NO! I didn't do anything!!

You puttin' the moves on my daughter, punk?

I won't believe what?

Oh, Daddy Dearest!! You won't believe what Raku just did!!

MIS-TRESS... IS SOME-THING BOTHER-ING YOU?

NO!

FIDGET そわ

FIDGET そわ

FIDGET そわ

SHRLRPP

コ

ココ

ココ...?

That can't be good for you...
You've already had ten!
One more!

SPRING TERM ENDED, AND IT WAS OUR FIRST SUMMER VACATION AS HIGH SCHOOL-ERS.

JULY.

WHAT NOW, KOSAKI?

TSK, TSK.

...AND YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANYWHERE WITH ICHIJO.

IT'S ALREADY SUMMER VACA-TION...

# Chapter 38: Work

I'M SORRY!

HOW COME YOU'VE MADE ZERO PROG-RESS? WHAT ARE YOU, A STATUE?

I TRIED SO HARD TO HELP. YOU HAD SO MANY CHAN-CES...

YOU'RE A HOPELESS WUSS, YOU KNOW THAT?

I ASKED HIM...

...TO COME OVER TOMORROW.

BUT AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE ...

Yap yap...

NOT THAT YOU HAVE THE GUTS.

YOU SHOULD ASK HIM TO HANG OUT OR SOME-THING.

UM... RURI?

RIGHT ...

WELL, ACTU-ALLY...

WHAT?

# Chapter 38: Work

THE OTHER DAY...

...ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.

ICHIJO!

ザワ CHATTER

ザワ CHATTER

I WAS JUST WONDER-ING...

...IF YOU'RE FREE THIS WEEK-END.

SHE'S TALK-ING TO ME!

OH, HI, ONO-DERA! WHAT'S UP?

FIDGET ドキ

ドキ

I, UM... GOT A MINUTE?

HUHH!

I WAS WONDER-ING...

...IF YOU COULD HELP OUT AT THE SHOP.

WELL ACTU-ALLY...

IS THIS A... DATE?!

FOR REAL?!

X

...CAN'T MAKE IT THIS WEEKEND.

ACTUALLY, ONE OF MY MOM'S EMPLOY-EES...

THE SWEET SHOP THAT ONODERA'S MOM RUNS FROM THEIR HOUSE?

JOLT

ガバッ

THE SHOP ?

I THOUGHT SHE WAS ASKING ME OUT!!

OF COURSE NOT. WHAT WAS I THINKING?

OH. THE SHOP.

WORMP

ガ"ク"

SO, IF YOU'RE INTER-ESTED...

YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I KNOW WHO CAN REALLY COOK.

MY MOTHER'S LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO COOK.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T SEE HER ALL SUMMER...

I GET TO WORK AT ONO-DERA'S HOUSE!

WHAT A SURPRISE!!

ビクッ!!
TWITCH

!?

YAAAY!!

SERIOUSLY?!

FOR REAL?

I'VE STOPPED BY A FEW TIMES, ON ONE PRETEXT OR ANOTHER...

...BUT NOTHING EVER CAME OF IT.

HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN A WHILE...

JAPANESE CONFEC-TIONS, ONODERA.

Japanese Confections
Onodera

I'VE NEVER HAD A REAL JOB BEFORE.

WE'LL BE WORKING TOGETH-ER...

I'VE GOTTA IMPRESS HER!

ドキ
ドキ...
LUB DUB

YOU'RE ALL OUT OF STOCK?!

ARE YOU KID-DING ME?

ROAR

ビリビリ ZING

ガヴ SHFF...

ER, EX-CUSE ME...

IT'S YOUR JOB TO WORK SOME-THING OUT!

THAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM!

モゴ SLINK...

... ...

LUB DUB ドキドキ

ガチャン!! SLAM

HMPH!!

NOW FOR THE OTHER STUFF ...

THERE. THAT COVERS THE BAKED GOODS.

ブツ... MUTTER

ブツ.. MUTTER

LISTEN ...

I NEED MY ORDER BY TO-NIGHT... OR ELSE!!

GOT THAT?!

I'LL BE BY LATER TO PICK IT UP.

ER... I... UM...

ドキキキキ SKREEE

GO SUCK HARD CANDIES, KID!

AREN'T YOU A BIT YOUNG FOR TRADITIONAL SWEETS?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

HM?

LUB-DUB

ドキ!!

G-GOOD MORNING, ICHIJO!

THANK YOU FOR COMING!

KO-SAKI ...

SAY WHAT?

HE'S A FRIEND! HE'S HERE TO HELP OUT!

WAIT, MOM!

WHOA! SHE'S IN HER UNIFORM!

MAN, SHE MAKES A CUTE SHOP GIRL!!

ER... THANKS FOR HAVING ME.

KOSAKI, I WANTED YOU TO GET ME SOME-ONE...

...WHO AT LEAST KNOWS THEIR WAY AROUND A KITCHEN!

...SOME KID FROM YOUR CLASS AT SCHOOL!

BE-SIDES, HE LOOKS LIKE A BEAN SPROUT!

WHEN YOU SAID YOU KNEW A GOOD COOK, I DIDN'T EXPECT...

WHAT?!

Japanese Confections Onn

HE'S HERE TO WORK?!

AND IT'S A BIG FAMILY! ER, DOZENS OF PEOPLE!

HE COOKS FOR HIS ENTIRE FAMILY EVERY DAY! BY HIMSELF!

ICHIJO KNOWS MORE THAN A FEW RECIPES, MOM!

!!

THE KITCHEN IS AN ARTISAN'S SANCTU-ARY!

JUST BECAUSE SOME TEENAGER KNOWS A FEW RECIPES ...

Y-YIKES! I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS!!

IF IT DOESN'T CUT THE MUSTARD, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO HOME.

LET'S SEE WHAT HE CAN MAKE. SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT, KID. I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF WHETHER IT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

IN THAT CASE ...

WELL ...

WELL ...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO MY BEST.
CHING カチャ...
うぐっ...!!?
ULP!
I'm counting on you!
You can do it, Ichijo!
BUT READING ISN'T ACTUAL EXPERIENCE...
I DID A BUNCH OF CRAMMING LAST NIGHT ABOUT JAPANESE SWEETS...
HE'S NO MASTER OF JAPANESE SWEETS ...
...BUT HE DOES SEEM LIKE A COMPETENT COOK.
HE'S GOOD ABOUT WIPING AWAY ALL THE MOISTURE.
HMM.
Moves with confidence in the kitchen...
Let's see. Now...
CHOMP
ﾊﾑ...
WELL!
Ooh!
TA-DAA!!
THEY'RE READY.
I guess...
ER...

HUH?

YES!

ICHIJO, WAS IT?

LUB DUB

ドキッ!!

...

UH...

MMM...

BUT THIS KID'S CLEARLY FROM A GOOD FAMILY. HE'D BE PERFECT TO TAKE OVER THE SHOP ONE DAY.
HONESTLY, I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT YOU, KOSAKI...
MOM, YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

MOM!!

This is a first, sweetie!

IT'S SO CUTE HOW YOU ACT AROUND YOUR MAN.

PRETTY BOLD OF YOU TO SEIZE AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS TO BRING HIM HOME!

KO-SAKI...

TEACH HIM HOW TO MAKE SWEET BEAN PASTE AND THE OTHER BASICS.

WELL, NEVER MIND THAT NOW. HE'LL BE FINE FOR TODAY.

But let him do the cooking!

I'LL BE WORKING AT THE SHOP UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY.

//—... HAHH...

//—... HAHH...

// HAHH...

Bwa ha ha ha ha!! See ya!!

...YOU ADD THE BROWN SUGAR...

NEXT...

WOW! THIS IS LIKE A DREAM! WORKING WITH ONODERA...

...SIDE BY SIDE, MAKING THINGS TOGETHER...

I'LL SHOW YOU THE BASICS.

COME HERE.

YOUR MOM'S PRETTY INTENSE.

SORRY, ICHIJO. DON'T LET HER GET TO YOU.

DO YOU HELP MAKE THIS STUFF A LOT?

ONODERA, YOU REALLY KNOW ALL THE LITTLE DETAILS!

NO... I DON'T HELP WITH THE COOKING AT ALL. I'm terrible at it!

A HAPPY LITTLE FAMILY...

RUNNING A LITTLE SHOP, JUST THE TWO OF US...

JAPANESE SWEETS...

I WANTED A GOVERNMENT CAREER, BUT THIS COULD BE COOL, TOO.

?

Ichi o Confections

Yay!

Heh heh...

WOW! EVEN BACK THEN?

...BUT MY SWEETS GAVE PEOPLE CONVULSIONS AND KNOCKED THEM UNCONSCIOUS. WE HAD TO CLOSE THE SHOP UP FOR THREE DAYS.

SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE ALWAYS LOVED WATCHING, THOUGH. ONCE MY MOM TRIED LETTING ME COOK TOO...

IS THIS GOOD?

THERE. IT'S ALL MIXED.

キラリ～ン!! SPARKLE!

MOM SAYS I'M BETTER AT MAKING THINGS PRETTY. ANY-WAY...

IT LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!!

YES, THAT'S GOOD!

WOW! THAT'S BEAUTI-FUL!!

SEE?

THAT'S THE PART I USUALLY HELP WITH. I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD.

WH-WHAAAT?!

WAS THAT A PROPOSAL?! TO MARRY HER AND RUN THE SHOP TOGETHER?!

Oblivious

?

CALM DOWN, RAKU. DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY NOW...

IF YOU DID THE COOKING AND I DID THE DECORATION ...

TEE-HEE!

...I BET WE'D MAKE AN AWE-SOME TEAM!!

MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!

WHY, HELLO, KOSAKI! YOU'RE MINDING THE SHOP TODAY?

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE YOU.

HELLO, MR. YO-SHINO!

OKAY, MOM!

I NEED TO RUN AN ERRAND. MIND THE SHOP, OKAY?

KO-SAKI ?

THIS IS GOING REALLY WELL!

I COULD SEE MYSELF SETTLING DOWN LIKE THIS...

WEL-COME, SIR!

YEESH! HITTING ON YOUNG GIRLS AT HIS AGE!!

See you next time, Kosaki!

HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT! HA HA!

OH? ER, THANK YOU.

YOUR CHANGE, SIR... 615 YEN.

ゴゴゴ GRR 4つリン… ゴゴ GRR

JINGLE

OH, MR. YO-SHINO! THERE YOU GO AGAIN!

SAY, SWEET-IE... HOW ABOUT A DATE SOMETIME?

SHOOP シュガ!!

ICHIJO?

HEY...

WITH THAT PSYCHO? WHY WOULD I...

WHAT?!

YOU'RE STILL PRETEND-ING TO BE DATING, RIGHT?

HUH?

DO YOU GO ON A LOT OF DATES WITH CHITOGE?

BLRF

UM, ICHIJO? ...
DIDN'T CHITOGE TELL YOU?
HUH?
UGH. THIS SUCKS.
S-SURE WE DO! OF COURSE! I MEAN, WE'RE A COUPLE AND ALL...
OH, RIGHT ...
ER... HUH?
!!... GASP!
I KNOW YOU AND CHITOGE AREN'T A REAL COUPLE.
HOW DO YOU... SINCE WHEN?
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW...
I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE. CHITOGE TOLD ME.
RIGHT?
I THOUGHT SO!!
W-WHAAAT?!

I STILL DON'T GET...

BUT...

...WHY HE HID THAT PHOTO.

OH. ICHIJO HAD NO IDEA.

THAT'S WHY HE KEEPS PRETENDING IN FRONT OF ME.

'COURSE, I HAVEN'T TOLD HER ABOUT SHU...

SHEESH! SHE COULDA TOLD ME ONODERA KNEW!!

Guess I should.

WAIT...

I

THIS MEANS...

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN...

PHEW. ONODERA KNEW ALL ALONG WE AREN'T DATING?!

NO, NOTH-ING...

YOU SAY SOME-THING ?

HMM ?

...THERE'S NOTHING STANDING IN MY WAY!

LUB DUB ドキ...

IF SHE KNOWS THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN ME AND CHITOGE...

Not that there ever really was...

...TO TELL ONODERA HOW I FEEL ABOUT HER?

IT'S OKAY...

ビュオォォ
VWHOOO
THE WIND'S GETTING STRONG OUT THERE.
WOW ...
HUH?
OH YEAH, IT IS.
OOO オオ
RATTLE RATTLE ガタ ガタ
RATTLE ガタ
ガタ ガタ
RATTLE RATTLE
ガタ RATTLE
ガタ ガタ..
RATTLE RATTLE
THE TIMING HAS TO BE JUST RIGHT!
BUT WAIT... THIS IS A BIG DEAL.
ア? ア... ァア? ..?.
KSHHHH
ザアアア
SHAAAAA
KSHHHH
アアアアア
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A TYPHOON COMING.
COME TO THINK OF IT...
KCHACK
ガチャ...
IT'S ME, SWEETIE.
KOSAKI ?
HELLO, ONO-DERA CONFEC-TIONS...
MOM?
プー
ルルルルルルルルルルルル...
RRRRING
ザアアア
SHAAA
WOW! IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN.
RRRMBBB RRRMBBB
ゴゴゴゴゴ...
YOU THINK YOUR MOM'S OKAY?
IT'S GETTING PRETTY STORMY.

THE STORM'S REALLY BAD. SHE'S CAN'T GET HOME.

SHE SAYS TO MIND THE STORE.

AND...

OH... WELL, SAFETY FIRST.

カチャン……

KCHAK

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT?!

SHE SAYS YOU SHOULD SPEND THE NIGHT.

IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS FOR YOU TO GO HOME.

WHAT?!

Japanese Confections

Onodera

SHAAA

KSHHH

HEH HEH
HEH HEH
Tee hee hee!
How'll she handle this?
SNAP

BANG!!

# Chapter 39: Typhoon

WHAAAAT?!

Japanese Confections
Onodera

ハアアアア

WH...

SHAAA

KSHHH

アアアア

MY DAD'S AWAY ON BUSINESS TONIGHT.

B-BUT ONODERA... IS ANYONE ELSE HOME?

FOR REAL?!

S-STAY THE NIGHT?!

IS THIS REALLY OKAY?!

JUST THE TWO OF US? FOR REAL?!

THAT'S NOT THE POINT!!

OH LORD!!

Her summer vacation hasn't started yet...

MY SISTER GOES TO BOARD-ING SCHOOL ...

YOU HAVE A SISTER?

I didn't know that.

Japanese Confections
Onodera

オオオ

WOOO

オオオ

OOOO

オオオ

VWHOOO

ビュオオ

KRASH

WATCH OUT! IT'S DANGER-OUS OUT HERE!

AUGH! THE TILES ARE BLOWING OFF THE ROOF!

VWOOO

オオ

OOO

オオ

CAN I BORROW AN UM-BRELLA? I'LL WALK HOME.

IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO STAY WHEN YOUR FAMILY'S NOT HERE.

NO... I CAN'T DO THAT.

ER... BUT...

I MEAN, OF COURSE I WANT TO, BUT...

CAN I REALLY STAY? IS THIS COOL?

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

...

THIS IS AWK-WARD ...

...HAVING A GUY STAY THE NIGHT...

...WITH NOBODY ELSE HOME.

I HOPE SHE'S NOT UNCOMFORTABLE...

カチャ...

KCHAK

HOW DOES SHE FEEL ABOUT IT? I HOPE SHE DOESN'T MIND...

IT'S SO SUDDEN. I'M GETTING NERVOUS...

I CAN'T STOP GRINNING!

HOW EMBARRASSING.

I CAN'T LET HIM SEE ME LIKE THIS! HOW EMBAR-RASSING!

C'MON, FACE... COOPER-ATE!!

SKWISH SKWISH

グニ グニ グニ

WHAT'LL I DO?! I CAN'T HIDE HOW HAPPY I AM!!

I WAS SO THRILLED JUST GETTING TO WORK TOGETHER ...

AM I?!

JOLT

ピーン!!

WHY'RE YOU GRINNING, ONO-DERA?

THERE... THAT'S GOOD.

UH, SO, ICHIJO...

WHAT SHOULD WE DO FOR DINNER?

HUH?

OH NO! I TOTALLY CAN'T CONTROL IT!!

BLUSH

GUESS SHE'S NER-VOUS TOO...

what a dumb thing to say!

WHUT

...SOME-THING FUNNY ON TV LAST NIGHT?

I-I-I...

I JUST REMEM-BERED...

HUH?

LET'S TALK IT OVER AND DECIDE TOGETHER.

WHY DON'T YOU COME UP TO MY ROOM?

DON'T PANIC. JUST CHANGE THE SUBJECT...

RIGHT?

I MEAN, Y'KNOW...

O-OF COURSE!

...IT'S OKAY?

ARE YOU SURE...

WOW, DID I JUST SAY THAT?!

ドキ LUB DUB

ガタン
SLAM
グオオオ
KRASH
バタン
WHAM
ドン
THUD
ガタガタ..
TAK TAK TAK TAK
WOW, SHE'S REALLY TIDYING UP A STORM!
ヒュン
ZOOM!!
AND I WANT TO CHANGE ...
BUT WAIT! LET ME TIDY UP FIRST!
OH!
OH, SURE.
TAKE YOUR TIME. DON'T MIND ME.
THIS WORKS.
HAHH... HAHH...
OKAY, THAT SHOULD DO IT.
I'D BETTER HURRY.
ICHI-JO'S WAIT-ING.
!
ガチャ..!
KCHAK

C'MON IN! THANKS FOR WAITING!

JOLT

ビク…!!

FWAP

パタン…

ガンバれ 若ちゃん

*BANNER: GO, YOUNG MASTER!!

カチャ…

KCHAK

I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A GIRL'S ROOM BEFORE... LET ALONE ONODERA'S!!

ギシ…

KREAK

IS THIS REALLY HAPPENING? MAN, I'M SUPER NERVOUS!!

WOW! ONODERA'S ROOM!

MAKE YOURSELF COMFORT-ABLE.

SO, THIS IS WHERE ONODERA LIVES!

THE BED WHERE SHE SLEEPS...

THE DESK WHERE SHE STUDIES...

A MINUTE AGO, SHE CHANGED CLOTHES IN HERE...

110 A-I... KCHAM

TAK TAK TAK

AND IT SMELLS GREAT!

I-IT'S SO CUTE!

WAIT HERE, OKAY?

I'LL MAKE US SOME TEA.

MAN, GIRLS' ROOMS ARE DANGEROUS!!

MY BRAIN ALMOST EXPLODED!

Y-Y-YIKES!! CALM DOWN, IMAGINATION!!

ガン FWAM

FWAM ガン

ガン FWAM

HMM?

OF COURSE I'M STOKED, BUT I HAVE TO BE A GENTLEMAN TODAY!

GOTTA STAY COOL AND COLLECTED!!

DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER UNCOMFORT-ABLE!

ゼー... PANT

ゼー... PANT

DON'T TELL ME IT'S OF THE GUY SHE LIKES?!

WAIT A SEC...

WHY'S IT FACE DOWN?

?

WHAT'S THAT? A FRAMED PHOTO?

BUT... I KNOW I SHOULDN'T, BUT...

OF COURSE I SHOULDN'T. NO WAY.

NO. I SHOULDN'T.

LUB DUB ドクン...

LUB DUB ドクン...

LUB DUB!!

ドクン...!!

...

コト...

CHFF

ER... THANK YOU!

I'D LOVE SOME.

HERE YOU GO!

?

ギュルルルルル FWISH

FWAK

!!!

ズWHMP.

ナ!!

カチャ... KCHIK

I'M BACK! WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?

カチ… TIK

TIK カチ…

コチ… TIK

…

コチ… TIK

SO... WHAT NOW? WE'VE GOT TIME ON OUR HANDS. SHOULD WE TALK OR SOME-THING?

OH, SURE!

Who knew I could move so fast?!

YEESH! THAT WAS CLOSE! I ALMOST DID A REALLY SLIMY THING JUST NOW!!

OH... YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY.

THAT'S THE GRAVEYARD OF FAILED CONVERSA-TIONS! WE'RE NOT THAT DESPERATE YET!!

WAIT, ONO-DERA!! LET'S NOT BE RASH !!

O-ONODERA?!

MAYBE WE SHOULD PLAY 20 QUEST-IONS.

I KNOW IT'S NOT SUPER ORIGINAL, BUT THAT SHOULD BREAK THE ICE, RIGHT?

I KNOW! DO YOU HAVE OUR YEARBOOK FROM JUNIOR HIGH?

OH!

OH! GOOD IDEA! I'LL GO GET IT!

DANG... ONODERA'S FEELING AWKWARD!

TIME TO MAN UP AND MAKE SOME CONVERSATION!

GLP

JJ...

NOR-MALLY IT'S NOT SO AWKWARD BETWEEN US, RIGHT?

I GUESS I'M KIND OF NERVOUS. I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS.

HA HA!

I KNOW, RIGHT? BUT REALLY IT WAS JUST HALF A YEAR AGO!

KSHAK

WOW... IT SEEMS LIKE SO LONG AGO!

HEY, THIS IS GOING WELL!

THIS WAS A GOOD ICE BREAKER...

YOU AND I HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS SINCE SECOND YEAR.

RIGHT. BUT WE DIDN'T REALLY TALK MUCH UNTIL THIRD YEAR.

THAT'S THE DAY RURI AND I BECAME FRIENDS!

HEY, LOOK! THE VOLLEYBALL MEET IN OUR FIRST YEAR!

I'd forgotten!

REALLY ?

I CAN ALWAYS SPOT HER!

HEY, I'M GOOD!

THAT'S KINDA COOL...

There's a lot of pictures of her actually!

THERE SHE IS AGAIN.

AND AGAIN.

THERE'S ONO-DERA! OH!

SHE WAS CUTE IN JUNIOR HIGH TOO!

OH! YOU'RE RIGHT!

Way in the back!

SURE YOU ARE! RIGHT HERE!

HUH ?

No fair!

Y'KNOW, I DON'T THINK I'M IN ANY OF THESE!

HEY...

OH...

They're all super tiny!

GOOD EYE! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SPOTTED THOSE!

WOW, ONO-DERA!

YEARBOOK

OH, AND HERE!

AND HERE.

HERE TOO.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS POPU-LAR!!

NO GIRLS LIKED ME!!

YOU'RE JOKING!

ME! NO WAY!!

YOU WERE REALLY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS.

ホゥ..!!

YOU STOOD OUT, YOU KNOW.

WELL ...

BLRF!

NO. UH-UH.

MAYBE YOU WERE, AND YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW IT.

WHOA. I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE SAID THAT!

NO. I WASN'T POPU-LAR.

I MEAN, YOU'RE SUCH A NICE GUY, ICHIJO...

HUH?

...WHO HAD A CRUSH ON YOU.

I KNOW AT LEAST ONE GIRL...

I CAN'T. NOT WITHOUT HER PERMIS-SION.

YOU HAVE TO TELL ME NOW!

OH, COME ON!

Ha ha ha ha!

NO WAY!!

BESIDES, WE GRADU-ATED. YOU CAN TELL ME.

I CAN'T TELL YOU. IT'S A SECRET.

WHO?

NO WAY!!

...REALLY FUN HANGING OUT WITH HER.

IT'S BEEN...

SERIOUSLY?! I COULD HAVE HAD A GIRLFRIEND, AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW?

TEE HEE HEE クスクスクス

OF COURSE, THE ONLY GIRL I WANT NOW IS ONODERA...

WHAT'S UP, ONO-DERA?

SHFF がう...

?

...GO ON FOREVER.

I WISH THIS COULD ...

Too long. Since kinder-garten.

How long have you known Maiko?

Wow, really?

WAY TO LET A GUY DOWN!!

STUPID TYPHOON!

THE TYPHOON HAS UNEX-PECTEDLY CHANGED COURSE ...

...AND HEADED EAST, TOWARD THE OCEAN...

?!

IT STOPPED RAINING.

RIGHT. OF COURSE. I KNEW THAT. I'M NOT CRYING. REALLY.

I GUESS THERE'S NO REASON YES ... FOR YOU TO STAY IF IT'S NOT RAINING.

ジョバ?!!

WAH!

RATS!! I WANNA STAY SO BAD!! I WANNA TALK MORE!! MAYBE SHE'LL TELL ME NOT TO GO...

IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME TO STAY WITH YOUR FAMILY AWAY...

WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD BE GOING, THEN.

WHAT'S UP?

?

ピク... PAUSE

...

LOOKS LIKE MY JOB HERE IS DONE.

AND WE'RE STILL ON SUMMER BREAK.

WHEN'LL I SEE HER AGAIN?

Thanks for coming. I had a lot of fun.

I did too.

WELL, IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED.

WHOA!! I SAID IT!! YAY ME!!

WELL...

I WAS JUST THINKING...

...BUT WE DON'T HAVE EACH OTHER'S NUMBERS AND STUFF.

WE TALK TO EACH OTHER AT SCHOOL...

YEAH...

WE SHOULD.

LET'S EXCHANGE NUMBERS!

ONE SEC.

WE CAN USE INFRA-RED TRANS-FER...

FOR REAL?!

WHOA!!

R-RIGHT!

HERE. IT'S TRANS-MITTING.

DEE DOO DEE DAH

Y-YES!! THANK YOU, ONODERA!!

SO GLAD I HAD THE GUTS TO ASK!!

WONDER WHEN I'LL SEE HER AGAIN?

THAT WAS SO FUN.

THIS HAS BEEN SO GREAT... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

WOW! THAT WAS UNEXPECTED!!

...

TAK カコ TAK カコ TAK カコ...

BEEP

BEEP

To Raku Ichijo

Sub

TAK カ4 TAK カ4 TAK カ4...

Raku Ichijo

The girl who liked you in junior high was...

...me.

girl

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP ...

...

SEE YOU, ICHI-JO!

Good night!

SEE YOU! CALL ME IF YOU NEED A HELPER AGAIN!

NOT YET.

...

NO... GO FOR IT! WE HAD SO MUCH FUN TODAY!

IS IT TOO SOON TO TEXT HER?

I WANT TO TALK MORE!!

KCHIK カチャ…!

HEH HEH! IT TOOK ME TWO YEARS...

...BUT I FINALLY GOT HER NUMBER! SCORE!!

HUH?!

To Kosaki Onodera

Sub

I had fun too. (^∀^)

Good night.

SHE TEXT-ED BACK!

→ Japan-ese Folk Song

Dee dee doo dee doo daaah

THERE. SEND!

It seemed like she was having fun...

Was it just me after all?

That's it?

Good night?!

I was really brave today. I bet Ruri will be proud!

ZZZ

A few days later...

HELLO!

LATE JULY.

SUMMER BREAK HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN...

# Chapter 40: Liar

Thanks for having us!

I DUNNO.

IT WAS TSU-GUMI'S IDEA.

It's not like we need to study now!

SO, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME WE'VE HELD A STUDY GROUP AT YOUR HOUSE, RAKU!

BUT WHY NOW? SUMMER JUST STARTED!

POUNCE だきっ!!

I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!!

OOH, RAKU DEAR-EST!!

WOW. YOU SURE ARE RESPON-SIBLE, SEI-SHIRO.

WELL, IT'S BEST IF WE GET OUR SUMMER HOMEWORK OUT OF THE WAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, RIGHT?

SEISHIRO'S? WELL, THAT'S UNUSUAL.

It's cool. I'm into it!

I've been wondering for a while...

BY THE WAY, TSUGUMI... WHAT'S THAT CONTRAPTION?

BZZZ

WHEREVER MY DARLING RAKU GOES, I GO TOO!

OH!

Lem- me go!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? I DIDN'T INVITE YOU!

I INVITED HIM.

THE ONLY GUY WITH ALL THESE GIRLS? NO THANKS!

AW, C'MON, BABY! THAT'S COLD!

COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T INVITE YOU EITHER!

Ah ha ha!

WHY, I'M NOT UP TO ANYTHING, MISTRESS!

A fun diversion?

WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, TSUGUMI?

OH, NOTH- ING REAL- LY.

JUST A LITTLE SOME- THING I THOUGHT MIGHT BE A FUN DIVER- SION...

BREEP!!

# Chapter 40: Liar

WHAT'S ...

...THIS ?

WHAT'S THIS?

CLAUDE ...

AH...

THERE YOU ARE, SEISHIRO. THANK YOU FOR COMING.

I HAVE AN ASSIGN-MENT FOR YOU, USING THIS TOOL.

IT'S 98% ACCU-RATE.

THAT'S VERY IMPRES-SIVE.

98% !!

A LIE DETEC-TOR?

WE USED TO USE IT FOR INTER-ROGA-TIONS.

IS A CUSTOM-BUILT LIE DETEC-TOR.

THAT...

TA-DAA!!

I UNDERSTAND THE ASSIGNMENT...

...BUT WE'RE ON SUMMER VACATION!

COMING UP WITH A PRETEXT WILL BE DIFFICULT...

もじ... FIDGET

FIND A WAY TO MAKE CONTACT... AND MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING.

?

ER... RIGHT.

BUT, UM...

I WANT YOU TO TRICK RAKU ICHIJO INTO REVEALING HIMSELF AS A FRAUD!

WE'LL NAIL HIM FOR SURE THIS TIME!

ER... RIGHT.

YOU'RE BOTH BOYS, AFTER ALL. WHAT'S THERE TO BE SHY ABOUT?

GET SOME FRIENDS TOGETHER FOR A STUDY GROUP!

OH, COME ON. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!

DON'T SCREW IT UP!!

NOW, LISTEN. THIS IS A CRUCIAL ASSIGNMENT.

For the good of the Mistress!

CLAUDE STILL THINKS I'M A BOY?!

WHAT ABOUT IT?

UM... NOTH-ING.

CLAUDE... HAVE YOU NOTICED THIS RIBBON?

RIB-BON?

AH, YES. I UNDER-STAND THE MISTRESS GAVE IT TO YOU.

IT'S VERY LOYAL OF YOU TO WEAR IT EVERY DAY.

Don't lose it!

HMM! A STUDY GROUP...

...WITH RAKU ICHIJO?

AM I REALLY THAT DEVOID OF FEMININE CHARMS?

HOW CAN HE NOT NOTICE?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!

MUST FOCUS ON MY ASSIGN-MENT!

A LIE DETEC-TOR?

YOU JUST HAPPENED TO FIND ONE ONLINE?

YES.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A FUN DIVERSION WHEN WE TAKE A BREAK...

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER, TSUGUMI!

ポヤ

BLOOP

ヤヤン

BLOOP

GAH! WHAT AM I THINKING?!

PSST!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU!?

HUH?

WHISPER

COOL! I LIKE IT!

LET'S TRY IT OUT RIGHT NOW!

But not on me.

YEAH!

YEAH ...

BUT... WHAT NOW?

I'M SURE CLAUDE PUT TSU-GUMI UP TO THIS!!

BE-SIDES, DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS WEIRD?

YIKES! YOU'RE RIGHT!!

IF SOMEONE ASKS US THE WRONG QUESTION, THEY'LL FIND OUT!!

WE'RE A FALSE COUPLE, REMEM-BER?!

Grin ...

COME NOW. BE A MAN AND SHOW SOME LEADERSHIP!

WHAT ABOUT SHU, THEN?

WH-WHY ME?

LET'S TRY IT OUT ON YOU FIRST!

ALL RIGHTEE!

RAKU ICHIJO!

HUH?!

SOME-ONE ASK ME A QUES-TION.

KOFF コホン…

PHEW!

FINE. I'LL GO FIRST.

HEY, TSUGUMI! IT'S YOUR MACHINE. WHY DON'T YOU GO FIRST?

THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, RIGHT?

YES, ONODERA?

Go ahead.

OH! I'VE GOT ONE!

I've been wondering, actually...

YOU TOO, MISTRESS ?

DO YOU LIKE SOMEONE, TSUGUMI?

BLRFF

HEH HEH …

SINCE THE OTHER DAY, I COULDN'T HELP WONDERING.

ONO…

ONODERA? WHA…?

NO!!

I KNEW IT!

BREED BREED

I DON'T LIKE ANYONE.

I TOLD YOU ALREADY.

ガリ SKRITCHA

ガリ SKRITCHA

ガリ SKRITCHA

ガリ SKRITCHA

ガリ SKRITCHA

ガリ

BREED!!

I TOLD YOU, NO!

ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, TSUGUMI?

OKAY, THEN...

THE QUESTION WAS AMBIGU-OUS!

LOOK, LIE DETECTORS AREN'T INFALLIBLE!

WOW, SHE'S REALLY DESPERATE!

YES. THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!

THIS THING MUST BE BROKEN.

WHAM!

WH-WHAT?!

YES OR NO?

DO YOU REALLY LIKE MISTRESS CHITOGE?

GRRRR

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

HERE! YOUR TURN, RAKU ICHIJO!

NEVER MIND ME!

TOSS

HUH ?

WHY ...

OF COURSE I DO!

THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

NOW WHAT? ONODERA'S THE ONE I LIKE!

I KNEW IT! THIS WAS ALL A SETUP?!

HUH?!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH.

SHOOT!

CHK カリ CHK カリ

カリ CHK

L — ... - — ... W ..

HUSH

ドキ LUB DUB
LUB DUB ドキ…
?!
YOU WERE RIGHT. IT MUST BE BROKEN!
WELL!
WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! I GUESS THOSE THINGS REALLY AREN'T INFALLIBLE.
THAT'S WEIRD. WHY DIDN'T THE MACHINE GO OFF?
AUGH!!!
WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN THIS ROOM?
HUH?!
NOW THEN, RAKU DEAREST! MAY I ASK A QUESTION?
AAAUGH! I DON'T KNOW!
WELL, RAKU ICHIJO? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
GRRR
ゴゴゴ
フニョン…
WOBBLE
WIBBLE
フニョニョニョ!
IT'S MOVING EVER SO SLIGHTLY.
IT'S MOV-ING!
NO FAIR! IT'S ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER!!
OBVIOUSLY, I THINK SUGAR PUMPKIN IS THE PRETTIEST!
UM…

YES, I DO!

DO I LOVE RAKU DEAREST ?

KA

!?

PAH

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ASK YOURSELF, DUMMY!!

WAIT...HOW COME I'M ANSWERING ALL THE QUESTIONS HERE? IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S TURN NOW!

OKAY! I'LL GO!

NOOOO!! WHAT'S WITH THESE QUES-TIONS?!

OKAY. NEXT QUES-TION!

WOULD YOU DIE FOR MISTRESS CHITOGE? YES OR NO?

GRRR

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ

What if I say no?

GRRR

WE'RE BACK TO THIS AGAIN?!

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU KISSED DARLING HERE?

Say what?!

FINE. I'LL ASK YOU A QUES-TION!

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

カリ CHK カリ CHK カリ CHK カリ CHK

...IT'S TRUE! ♡

WHY, OF COURSE ...

NO! I CAN EXPLAIN!!

How 'bout one for me?

You gave Raku a kiss, Marika?

HOW DARE YOU CHEAT ON MISTRESS CHITOGE!

Not if the world was about to explode!

NOOOOOO!!

YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO, RAKU ICHIJO!!

KCHING

I CAN'T LET THE MIS-TRESS BE DECEIVED BY HIM!

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S SO HEART-LESS...

KA-POW

IS YOUR CUP SIZE AT LEAST A C?

OR IS IT SMALLER?

WHO, ME?

HOW ABOUT YOU, ONO-DERA?

NOW, WHO'S NEXT?

OOH, CAN I ASK?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT, ONO-DERA!!

M-MY C-CUP SIZE...

...

BLUSH BLUSH

カ???????...

I WAS JUST KIDDING! HELP!!

YIKES! MERCY!!

GRIND

ガスン

GRIND

WHAT?!

KIRISAKI, HAVE YOU ALREADY KISSED RAKU?

ME?!

OKAY... YOU'RE NEXT, CHITOGE!

OKAY... I'LL ASK!!

Yeah!

WOBBLE

WOBBLE

IT'S GOING OFF?!

HUH? WHAT?!

OH!

WE HAVE A VERY PURE RELA-TION-SHIP...

ER...

NOT YET...

HUH?!

OKAY, TSU-GUMI! YOU'RE NEXT!

TOSS

トッ!!

NO! I DIDN'T!!

WHAAAT?!

NO WAY!! YOU DID?!

I ABSO-LUTELY DID NOT!

YES OR NO?

...ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE...

2-3 DOOM!...

LET ME ASK THIS TIME.

HEH HEH HEH HEH!

IS YOUR BRA CUP AT LEAST A SIZE E?

KA

POW!!

ヤア!!

...BUT I'VE NOTICED THAT YOU HAVE SOME VERY SPECIAL ATTRIBUTES.

TELL ME...

YOU KEEP TO YOURSELF, SEISHIRO...

ギャリ ギャリ SKRIT SKRIT

ギャリ SKRIT ギャリ SKRIT

ギャリ SKRIT ギャリ SKRIT

O-OF COURSE THEY'RE NOT THAT BIG!!

GRIND GRIND

IS THAT ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT?

OF... OF

Yeek!

TSUGUMI!!?!

For real?!

AAGH!!

AN E CUP?

IT'S OKAY. MINE ARE TOO!!

HOW BIG IS AN E CUP?

DOKI DOKI LUB DUB LUB DUB

?!

BETWEEN ME AND RAKU, WHO'S MORE YOUR TYPE?

I'M SORRY.

THE NEXT ONE ISN'T PERVY, I SWEAR!

WHAT?! ANOTHER QUESTION?

WHY'D YOU ASK HER THAT?

BEAR WITH ME.

I don't get it.

WHA...?

...

IN THE END...

BLAM ドゥン!!

BLAM ドゥン!!

ギャー

Wait... What does that mean?

Gah! I've had it! Forget this stupid machine!!

It was your idea!

EEK ギャー

EEK ギャー

...THE STUDY GROUP ENDED WITHOUT ANYONE GETTING ANY HOMEWORK DONE.

KII

BLAM ドゥン!!

BREEED!!

N-N-NEITH...

NEITHER OF YOU!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!

GAH!

SHAKA ブン

SHAKA ブン

...

"BETWEEN ME AND RAKU..."

NOW I HAVE TO TAKE THIS STUPID THING BACK.

IT'S HEAVY, TOO.

No prob!

Thanks for hosting! See you!

WHY DOES MY HEART BEAT SO FAST WHEN I THINK ABOUT HIM?

BUT ...

PLUS HE'S A TOTAL WIMP!!

HE'S THE MISTRESS'S BOYFRIEND!

...RAKU...

...ICHIJO.

I LIKE...

ドキン…
LUB DUB

REALLY ?!

I REALLY DO...

ドキン…
LUB DUB

LUB DUB

LUB DUB

HUSH

!!

LUB DUB

...

THAT THING'S NOT PLUGGED IN.

NOTH ...

NOTHING! I WASN'T DOING ANYTHING AT ALL!

FLAIL FLAIL

HEY ... OH ...

JOLT

OH!

YOU'RE STILL HERE, TSUGUMI?

What're you doing?

SMASH

?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

SHUT UP!!

SHEESH!

WHADJA DO THAT FOR? WHAT A WASTE!

HOW COME I HAVE TO HANG OUT WITH YOU ON THIS BOILING HOT DAY?

JIII

JIII

JIII

PHOOEY.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD MEET UP NOW AND THEN SO THE FAMILIES DON'T GET SUSPICIOUS.

SHAWA

SHAWA

SHAWA

SHAWA

JIII

QUIT COM-PLAIN-ING!

# Chapter 41: Stray Dog

SEE YOU, STUPID BEAN SPROUT!

OH, REALLY? WELL, FINE! I'M GOING HOME!

ARG! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE HAD THIS SAME CONVER-SATION?

YEAH, WELL, IT'S NOT MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME EITHER!

DON'T MAKE ME GAG!

HA!

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE THIS WAS ALL MY IDEA!

WHAT NOW?

HUH?

HEY, RAKU, LOOK!

HUH?

THIS WAS ON THE STREET...

PANT PANT PANT

ON THE STREET?

WHAT?!

SOMEONE ABANDONED HIM?!

THAT'S RIGHT. LOOK AT THE BOX!

OF COURSE, I CAN SEE WHY YOU RESCUED HIM...

POOR LITTLE GUY! HE'S SO CUTE!

Take me home!

I'VE BROUGHT HOME SO MANY ANIMALS OVER THE YEARS, I'M NOT ALLOWED ANY MORE!

I CAN'T.

What difference will one more make at this point?

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM?

U, ..... STARE

I CAN'T TAKE HIM.

WE ALREADY HAVE ONE BIG DOG.

The teacher takes care of them during vacation.

AND SCHOOL IS CLOSED SO I CAN'T TAKE HIM THERE.

HOW 'BOUT YOU?

I REALLY WANT TO HOLD HIM!

SHOOT. I'M A SUCKER FOR PUPPIES ...

BUT ANIMALS NEVER LIKE ME RIGHT AT FIRST.

Take me home!

WELL, GO AHEAD!

AWWW! キュ〜ン♡

TWINKLE キラ

パ OOOOH!! アアアアア!!!

ヒョイ SHF

OHHH?

OH...

パロ LICK

パロ LICK

パロ... LICK

HUH?

...LIKES ME?!

WAG パタ

WAG パタ

WAG パタ

HE...

SNUGGLE キュ〜ン!!

THERE, THERE ...

C'MERE, YOU LITTLE SWEETIE !

I'M TOUCHED !

...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT'S HAP-PENED!

IN THE 15 YEARS I'VE BEEN CARING FOR ANIMALS ...

HEY... CAN I HOLD HIM?

KA

CHOMP(

YEEOWCH!!

GRRRR...

WELL, YOU SCARED HIM!

HE'S JUST A BABY! YOU HAVE TO BE GENTLE!

HE BIT ME REALLY HARD!!

AWW, HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEAN TO A LITTLE PUPPY?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS STUPID MUTT?!

THAT MANGY LITTLE MONGREL!

AUGH! CALM DOWN!!

PSSS

I'M NOT SCARY, SEE?

C'MERE, PUPPY! COME ON!

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT LITTLE MENACE!

PSHAA

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT!

SNUGGLE

キュー♡

WE'D BETTER TRY TO FIND SOMEONE TO ADOPT HIM.

ANYWAY...

CHOMP

カプッ!!

HOW ABOUT FIDO? I THINK IT'S PERFECT FOR HIM.

SO, WHAT SHOULD WE CALL HIM?

YOU FOUND HIM. HE'S YOUR RESPONSI-BILITY!

OH NO YOU DON'T!

Yee-ow!!

A PUPPY?

OH!

...AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO ADOPT HIM.

YEAH. WE JUST FOUND HIM ON THE STREET ...

AWW! THIS IS THE PUPPY?

PANT PANT PANT

HE'S ADOR-ABLE!!

FLICK

LICK

WE'RE IN THE FOOD BUSINESS. MY MOM'LL DEFINITELY SAY NO.

HMM. I DON'T THINK WE CAN.

OH, RIGHT.

You look cute, Kosaki!

OH!

ピョン!! SHOOP

NO!

ARE THE TWO OF YOU ON A DATE TODAY?

NOT NECES-SARILY. ONO-DERA'S A SPECIAL CASE.

I'M THE ONLY ONE HE DOESN'T LIKE.

Ani-mals always love her.

Huh? I thought I did!

By the way, Chitoge, you shoulda told me you told Ono-dera!

WE HAVE TO SEE EACH OTHER SOMETIMES OR OUR FAMILIES GET SUSPICIOUS.

KNOCK IT OFF!

OH! HE'S SO ADOR-ABLE!!

LICK LICK LICK LICK

ハアアアアア..

OOOOOH...

TOO BAD ONODERA CAN'T TAKE HIM.

WHO ELSE SHOULD WE TRY?

ガブリュ!!

KCHOMP

HERE, FIDO. C'MERE, BOY...

THIS IS GETTING ANNOY-ING.

HE LOVES HER.

I'm sorry, Mis-tress...

DARN. WELL, IF TSUGUMI CAN'T TAKE HIM EITHER...

I REALLY CAN'T TAKE CARE OF AN ANIMAL ...

I HAVE TO TRAVEL A LOT ON ASSIGN-MENTS.

AIEEE!!

BUT MIS-TRESS ...

I CAN'T KEEP A PET.

Ooh!
Aah!!

HE'S SO PRECIOUS !!

OOH! A PUPPY?

LICK LICK LICK

I'M SO SORRY I CAN'T BE OF HELP.

BUT OUR CONDO DOESN'T ALLOW PETS.

LICK

LICK

LICK

TACHI-BANA COULDN'T TAKE HIM EITHER...

THIS IS GETTING DISCOUR-AGING.

OOF!

KSMAK

WHY ME?!

OF COURSE, YOU CAN MOVE IN ANYTIME, RAKU DEAREST!

ACK!

HUH?

OH... MAYBE HE'S HUNGRY.

FLOP...

LOOK.

FIDO LOOKS KIND OF LISTLESS.

HEY...

NO WAY! THIS IS MINE!!

HUH?! YOU WANT THIS?!

AW... LET HIM HAVE IT!

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?!

たら DROOL

HE ISN'T EATING MUCH.

OH, PLEASE. A PICKY EATER?

SNRF もしゃ...

Wow. You're a weird dog.

ガツガツ GOBBLE

TOSS ポイ

HERE.

む GRRR!!

CHOMP カプッ

HA!

NOW YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS?

WHAT ...

?!

トコトコ TMP TMP

SNIFF ﾌﾝ——...ﾝ..

AIEE!!

Adopt me!

CHOMP
パク…

OM NOM NOM
もぐもぐ

IT'S BEEN A WHOLE WEEK!

BZZZ BZZZ

HMM ?

I'D PROMISE IT WAS ONLY FOR THE SUMMER... AND KEEP HIM AT SCHOOL AFTER THAT.

OH...

IF WORST COMES TO WORST, I COULD TAKE HIM.

I MEAN, IF WE DON'T FIND ANYONE...

WHAT'LL WE DO?

HMM ...

NOBODY SEEMS TO WANT YOU.

?

WELL, FIDO... WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU?

BREEP

SHU? YEAH, WHAT'S UP?

HUH ?

?

...YOU COULD COME LIVE WITH ME...

I GUESS ...

YOU'RE KIND OF A PAIN.

I MEAN, WHY WOULD THEY?

HEY...
CHI-TOGE!
WHAT?
WE FOUND...
...FIDO'S OWNER!
...!
KO-TARO!
FIDO...
...WAS NEVER ABANDONED.
?!
YEAH.
APPAR-ENTLY...
KO-TARO?
WOOF!?

HE WAS PROBABLY ATTRACTED BY SOME DOG FOOD THAT WAS LEFT IN THERE.

WE'RE NOT SURE HOW HE ENDED UP IN THAT BOX.

OH... ...

SHE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR HIM EVER SINCE.

HE GOT OUT ONE DAY WHEN HIS OWNER WASN'T WATCHING.

SHE SAW THE FLIERS THE GUYS PUT UP AND CALLED SHU.

WOOF!

PATTER PATTER PATTER

CONGRATU-LATIONS. YOU CAN GO HOME NOW!

KOTARO, RIGHT?

WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?

GET GOING!

GO ON, NOW.

NOW I WON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR UGLY LITTLE MUG EVERY DAY!

フゥ… WOOF…

GO!!

RAMEN?

...

WHAT?

...

I KNOW THAT WASN'T ...

C'MON. I'LL TREAT YOU.

...EASY FOR YOU.

KNOCK YOUR-SELF OUT.

...

CAN I GET AN EXTRA LARGE?

ズビ" SNIFFLE...!!

OH C'MON... LET'S NOT SWEAT THE DETAILS.

OH, AND EXTRA NOODLES TOO.

HOLD ON... YOU JUST SAID AN EXTRA LARGE!!

Sure thing!

I'LL HAVE AN EXTRA LARGE BBQ PORK BOWL WITH EXTRA MEAT PLUS CORN, BEAN SPROUTS, SPINACH, BOK CHOY, HARD-BOILED EGG, BAMBOO SHOOTS, GREEN ONIONS...

Sure, go ahead.
Why stop now?
Can I get seconds ?
That was an awesome new combo!

# Chapter 42: Festival

## Thanks

YOU REALLY THINK SO, MIS-TRESS?

When you dress like a girl, anyway.

Y'KNOW, I THINK YOU'RE PLENTY FEMININE ALREADY.

## C-c-cutie!!

WELL, YEAH. YOU'RE WAY HOT. YOU SHOULDN'T HIDE IT.

H-HOT? NO WAY!!

ER, MISTRESS? DO YOU THINK I NEED A MORE FEMININE LOOK?

WAIT... I CAN EX-PLAIN!

OH! CLAUDE!!

SEISHI-RO? WHY ARE YOU...

HMM?

JOLT ドキ!!

HUH?

W-W-WAIT! EEK!

You'll look great!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

HERE! I'LL DO YOUR MAKE-UP!

YOUR CROSS-DRESS-ING SKILLS HAVE REALLY EVOLVED. GOOD WORK.

I'm impressed.

ARE YOU GOING UNDER-COVER?

I-I'M NOT READY, MIS-TRESS...

P-PLEASE...

AWWW...

I WAS HELPING OUT AT ONE OF OUR FAMILY'S BOOTHS.

ガヤ CHATTER

ガヤ CHATTER

夏

IT WAS OUR TOWN'S SUMMER FESTIVAL.

Welcome!

KSHH ガシュ!

STEP RIGHT UP!

I PUT TOGETHER SOME FOOD FOR THE GUYS AT THE OTHER BOOTHS. WILL YOU TAKE IT OVER?

WHAT'S THAT?

やき

You real-ly are!

YOUNG MASTER, YOU ARE THE BEST!

IT'S COOL. I HAVE THE EVENING OFF. I CAN KEEP WORKING 'TIL THEN.

You've been workin' more'n anyone, Young Master!

YOU'VE BEEN AT IT SINCE THIS MORN-ING!

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK SOON, YOUNG MASTER?

SIZZLE ガシュ

SIZZLE ガシュ

RIED CHICKEN

Oban-Yaki

Jumbo Takoyaki

NAME-LY...

THERE'S SOMETHING VERY, VERY IMPORTANT I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF THIS EVENING!

THIS IS NOTHING AS LONG AS I GET THE EVENING OFF!

YES ...

I'VE GOT TO GET ONE!!

Love Charm

...THE SUPER ULTRA LOVE CHARM ONLY AVAILABLE THE EVENING OF THIS FESTIVAL!!

KA-POW!!

BUMP

EEP!

OOPS! EXCUSE ME...

I NEED ALL THE HELP I CAN GET WITH ONO-DERA!!

I'VE GOTTA SNAG ONE!

たのや

ROMANTIC SUCCESS IS PRACTICALLY GUARANTEED TO THE POSSESSOR OF THIS MEGA-POWERFUL GOOD-LUCK CHARM!!

RUMOR HAS IT ITS POWERS ARE ABSOLUTE!!

EVERY YEAR, THEY SELL OUT IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!

Love Charm

ME? HOW ABOUT YOU?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

YEAH, WE'LL I'M JUST HERE HELPING WITH MY FAMILY'S FOOD STALLS.

GAH! WHY DO I HAVE TO SEE YOU EVERY-WHERE I GO?!

I CAME HERE TO ENJOY THE FESTIVAL!

COULD YA GIMME A HAND WITH THIS BEER?

HEYA, YOUNG MASTER !!

YA DIDN'T NEED TO SPEND ALL DAY WORKIN' WHEN YOU COULD BE HANGING OUT WITH YOUR SPECIAL LADY!

GEEZ, YOUNG MASTER!

NO, NO, IT'S OKAY, REALLY...

YOUR GIRL-FRIEND'S HERE, MASTER? AIN'T THIS A SURPRISE!

OH, DUDE!!

HAVE YOUR-SELVES A GOOD TIME, KIDDOS!

Make the most of it!!

CHILLIN' AT A FESTIVAL WITH YOUR LADY FRIEND IS ONE OF A GUY'S TOP THREE IDEAL SITUATIONS IN LIFE!

LEAVE THE COOKIN' TO US, YOUNG MASTER!

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY BOY-FRIEND, SO AT LEAST TREAT ME TO SOME FOOD! I WANT SOME TAKOYAKI!

WELL, AT LEAST I CAN STILL EAT. LET'S GO!

RATS. WHAT A DRAG! I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS FESTIVAL!

WHY DO I HAVE TO...

Takoyaki

DON'T LOOK AT ME!

WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN?

...!

Good job today!

YOU OFF DUTY?

YO, YOUNG MASTER!

HEYA!

HUH? HOW COME?

HEY ... THERE'S ANOTHER TAKOYAKI STAND OVER THERE. LET'S GO TO THAT ONE.

IT'S GOOD. I PROMISE.

FWOO...

WHAT'S UP?

COULD WE HAVE SOME TAKOYAKI?

OF COURSE YOU CAN, YOUNG MASTER! HELP YOURSELVES!!

Takoyaki

Ahem.

...

ALL THE FOOD AND THE ACTIVITIES?

SO EVERYTHING'S FREE?

BASICALLY, YEAH.

...

YEAH.

WE'RE HANDLING A LOT OF THE BOOTHS HERE TONIGHT.

YOUR FAMILY'S REALLY BIG, ISN'T IT.

IT'S AWE-SOME!!

YOU'RE BASIC-ALLY A WALKING FREE PASS!

I MEAN, C'MON... FREE'S FREE!!

WAY TO TREAT ME LIKE A HUMAN BEING!

So? You're rich!

OH, I SEE HOW IT IS!!

OH, RAKU?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEND THE EVENING TOGETH-ER?

YIPPEE!!

SHEESH!

HMM... MAYBE IT WAS MY IMAGINA-TION...

ガヤ CHATTER

ガヤ CHATTER

...

HUH?

WHY DID I HIDE JUST NOW?!

OOPS!

THEY HAVE TO BE TOGETHER OR THEIR FAMILIES WILL SUSPECT.

I SHOULD'VE KNOWN. IT'S A FESTIVAL.

TWITCH

IS THAT YOU, ONODERA?

WHY, HELLO!

WILL MY LUCK CHANGE?

SIGH...

IF I MANAGE TO BUY A LOVE CHARM TONIGHT...

ISN'T THAT...

OH!

ME? OH, NO... HA HA!

ARE YOU HERE FOR THE MIRACLE-WORKING TURBO-CHARGED MUST-HAVE LOVE CHARMS TOO?

GOOD EVEN-ING!

INTER-FERE?! WAIT... NO!

PERHAPS I'LL GO INTERFERE A BIT...

...

HE TURNED ME DOWN FLAT WHEN I INVITED HIM...

WELL, ISN'T THAT NICE!

WE'VE BEEN PRETEND-DATING PRETTY MUCH SINCE WE FIRST MET.

What a funny face!!

CHITOGE AND I REALLY SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

WE REALLY...

...HAVE A WEIRD RELATION-SHIP.

YEAH, YEAH. NO NEED TO GLOAT!

WISH I HAD A BOD LIKE THAT!!

LOOKS HALF-JAPAN-ESE.

WOW, SHE'S GOR-GEOUS!

TWITCH ピク..

WHOA! CHECK OUT THAT CHICK! WHAT A FOX!!

YOU'RE SUCH A JERK.

MFFF...

プスス...

MFFF...

SHE CAN'T BE SERI-OUS ABOUT HIM!

BUT WHAT'S SHE DOING WITH THAT LOSER?

HEY, HER BOY-FRIEND'S A TOTAL GEEK.

ZING

ブッ..! PFFT

IS IT REALLY A BIG DEAL FOR GIRLS TO WEAR YUKATA?

...

HUH ?

I BET SHE'D LOOK AMAZ-ING IN ONE!

WHY ISN'T SHE WEARING A YUKATA ?

Hee hee hee

WHY AM I SUR-PRISED? WE'VE BEEN A FALSE COUPLE FOR LONG ENOUGH ...

I GUESS IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOGETHER.

Geez!

*NOTE: A YUKATA IS A COTTON SUMMER KIMONO, TRADITIONALLY WORN AT FESTIVALS.

バシャ!!

SPLISH

OOPS.

YEP.

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.

What are we doing?

...

OH ...

WELL ...

YEAH, I GUESS SO.

Depends on the person.

THE PA-PER'S AL-MOST ALL GONE ...

HUH ?

FINE. CAN I SEE THAT FOR A MINUTE ?

GIVE IT UP. YOU DON'T REALLY WANT A GOLDFISH ANYWAY.

What a dirty gyp!

YES I DO!

RATS! HOW'S ANYONE SUPPOSED TO SCOOP UP A GOLDFISH WITH TISSUE PAPER?!

The scoop was already trashed!

INCREDI-BLE!! HOW'D YOU DO THAT?!

WHOA !!

WOW!!

I'VE GOTTA WARN YOU... I'M A WIZ AT FESTIVAL GAMES.

I HAD LOTS OF PRACTICE GROWING UP.

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP

FWIP

WHAT IS IT?

BUT WE GOTS A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR YOU THIS YEAR!

YOU CLEAN US OUT EVERY YEAR!

UH-OH... IT'S YOU, YOUNG MASTER!

# 04

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

A RAIN-BOW CARP!

That's no gold-fish!!

THIS !!

TA-DAA!!

UH... I SURPRISED MYSELF JUST NOW.

COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR..

See you!

WOW! YOU'RE AMAZING!!

HE GOT IT?!

FWIP

FWIP

WHY DON'T YOU START WITH TWO?

I'll teach you how to take care of them.

YOU DON'T WANT TOO MANY, DO YOU?

!

HERE.

HA HA! YOU'RE RIGHT.

THANK YOU!

GUESS SHE LIKES FESTI-VALS...

HMPH. SHE'S IN A GOOD MOOD FOR ONCE.

THEY'RE GOING TO START SELLING THE CHARMS!

OH NO!

WHAT'S WITH THE HUGE CROWD OVER THERE?

ガヤ-ガヤ... CHATTER CHATTER

No, Marika!

OH!

10-4!!

KA-VOOM

Honda →

CLEAR THE WAY!!

HERE I GO, HON-DA!

VA-VA-VA-VOOSH

EXCUSE ME, ONODERA...

THIS IS IT, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!

HUH?

I...

SHE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO GO AFTER WHAT SHE WANTS.

I WISH I COULD BE MORE LIKE THAT...

TACHI-BANA'S REALLY SOME-THING. IN MANY WAYS ...

STARE... ポカーン...

OH?

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO BUY OVER THERE. COULD YOU WAIT FOR ME HERE?

EX-CUSE ME, CHI-TOGE ...

I CAN DO THIS! I'M GOING TO GET ONE OF THOSE LOVE CHARMS TOO!

HMMM... MAYBE THERE'S A LAND-MARK NEARBY ...

GOOD POINT ...

IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO MEET UP AGAIN IN THIS CROWD...

WAIT... WHERE SHOULD I WAIT?

I'LL GO WITH YOU.

WE WON'T GET SEPARATED THIS WAY.

CAN'T LOSE TRACK OF MY FREE PASS, RIGHT?

HERE.

OH, WHAT THE HECK.

HUH?

ギュッ…！
SHUP!

YAP YAP
ガヤガヤ
CHATTER CHATTER
ワイワイ

HOW COME I'M SO NERVOUS ALL OF A SUDDEN ?

OKAY, OKAY!

C'MON! LET'S GO!

YEESH!

AL-MOST THERE …

YAP ワイ
YAP ワイ

AL-MOST …

YOU OKAY, CHI-TOGE?

HOLD ON TIGHT, OKAY?

HOW COME I FEEL ALL WEIRD NOW?!

YEEK !

I'M TRYING TO GET A LOVE CHARM BECAUSE I LIKE ONODERA!

THIS IS NUTS !!

I GOT ONE!!

Love Charm

YES! I DID IT!!

SHUP

YIKES!

FWIP

バッ!

YAY!

うおおお

THEN C'MON! LET'S...

DID YOU GET ONE?

HEY!

I TOLD YOU TO HOLD ON!!

C'MON!

AH! THERE SHE IS...

SHOOT. WHERE IS SHE?

OH NO! CHITOGE?!

ガシッ!

SHUP

!!

HUH?

OH!

CHITOGE TURNED INTO ONO-DERA?!

What's happening ?!

CH...

BEAN SPROUT ?

HEY!

Love
Charm

!

ONO-DERA?!

I-ICHIJO?

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

IS THAT YOU BOUGHT A LOVE CHARM ONE, ICHI-JO? ?

THIS ?

ER... YEAH...

# Chapter 43: Blessings

DID YOU BUY ONE, ONO-DERA?

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

HUH ?

...

NO... I, UH...

I JUST GOT SWEPT UP IN THE CROWD...

OH, RIGHT...
WE WERE TOGETHER A MOMENT AGO...
Aren't you together?
SO...
WHERE'S CHITOGE?
BUT WE LOST EACH OTHER IN THE CROWD...
OH!
SHOOP
WHERE ARE YOU?!
YO, BEAN SPROUT!!
HOPE SHE'S OKAY ON HER OWN...
SHEESH!
HUH?
HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID TO HOLD ON TIGHT...
GAH!
ガヤ YAP
ガヤ YAP

WE'LL NEVER FIND HER HERE ANYWAY.

ANYWAY, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS CROWD.

RIGHT.

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF GIRLS IN YUKATA...

COME TO THINK OF IT...

...

I MEAN, THIS IS AWESOME! BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT CHITOGE...

COULD IT BE WORKING?! NAH... THAT'S SILLY, RIGHT?

WOW. THE MOMENT I GOT THIS LOVE CHARM, I FOUND MYSELF ALONE WITH ONODERA!

...

WISH WE COULD BE TOGETHER LONGER...

I DIDN'T GET A LOVE CHARM, BUT IT'S GREAT TO RUN INTO ICHIJO!

WHY AM I WORRIED ABOUT CHITOGE?!

She's got nothing to do with this!!

ガシ FLAIL

ガシ FLAIL

??

ガシ FLAIL

OH!

SNAP

OOPS... EXCUSE ME!

WHUD

SHOOP

OH, THANK YOU!

YOU DROPPED YOUR LOVE CHARM, ICHIJO!

FOR REAL?!

OH GEEZ. IT'S TOTALLY SEV-ERED!

THE STRAP ON MY SANDAL BROKE!

YOU OKAY?

YES...

I've fixed sandals before.

THAT SHOULD HOLD FOR THE EVENING, ANYWAY.

THERE!

THANK YOU.

WOW... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING!

I'M SO HAPPY, BUT/ALSO REALLY EMBARRASSED!!

?

I'M SORRY, ICHIJO... I MUST BE HEAVY.

AND I JUST ATE SOME COTTON CANDY TOO!

CARRYING A PERSON IS PRETTY HARD...

NAH. YOU'RE FINE.

WHAT?

YOUR LOVE CHARM! IT'S GONE!

It was here a second ago...

YEAH...

OH NO!

GUESS I SHOULD GO FIND CHITOGE NOW...

トコトコ...

PATTER PATTER

GAH!

LOOK! OVER THERE!

OH!

ポツン…
PAH

JOLT
ピュー ビ?
PSHOOM

COME BACK HERE WITH THAT!!

HEY, KITTY CAT!!

A CAT?!

OH! ICHIJO ?!

NOW'S MY CHANCE!!!

OH! IT STOP-PED!

I CAN'T LET IT GO NOW!!

RATS! AFTER ALL THAT TROUBLE …

TACHIBANA!!

HMM?

TOO BAD…

SIGH …

…I DIDN'T GET A LOVE CHARM BEFORE THEY SOLD OUT!

AFTER ALL THAT…

HMM?

DON'T MOVE, OKAY?

HEY, TACHI-BANA!

WHY, WHAT AN UNEX-PECTED THRILL!!

IF IT ISN'T RAKU DEAREST !!

OH!

TEE-HEE!

クス…

HOW I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY!!

OH, RAKU DEAR-EST!

FINALLY, IT'S ME YOU WANT AND NOT THAT HUSSY...

STARE じ"り…

WHAT?

ER...

WHA ...?

DON'T MOVE, OKAY?

STARE じ"り…

LIS-TEN...

SHUP

YEEK!

--!!

NOO !!

N...

WAIT! ARE YOU SURE? ER...

KHHR

KHHR

Not listening

BUT ...

I-I WANT YOU TOO, OF COURSE ...

FLUSTER オロ

OH... B-BUT RAKU DEAREST...

LUB DUB ドキ

I-ISN'T THIS RATHER FAST?

FLUSTER オロ

LUB DUB ドキ

SHOOP ダッ!

RATS! I MISSED !! GET BACK HERE !!

ピョーン! SHOOP

HYAA !!

SIGH ... SO MUCH FOR WAITING IN LINE. I DIDN'T GET ONE OF THOSE LOVE CHARMS ...

...

HUH?

IF THIS WERE A REAL GUN...

RATS! THIS THING IS A PIECE OF JUNK!!

HOPPITY ﾀﾀｯ! HOPPITY ﾀﾀｯ!

Gee, what a lousy shot!

ビｽｯ PAFF

POW

ｯ!!

NOT THAT I NEEDED ONE ANYWAY!!

KCHAK ｶﾞｷｬ…!

I MEAN, I'M NOT IN LOVE OR ANYTHING !!

ﾋｭｰ!! JOLT

TSU-GUMI !!

ZOOM ﾀﾀｯ!!

What the heck?!

A CAT?!

HLF ?!

ﾄﾞｹﾞｯ!! JOLT

?!

YEAH. IT WENT THAT WAY...

POW POW

OH! THANKS !!

DID YOU SEE A SPOTTED CAT AROUND HERE?

HUH?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

OH! IT'S YOU!!

HERE.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

TUNK

ポン!

KA

Morinaga

Morinaga Milk Caramels

POW

ポーン!!

GET BACK HERE, YOU !!

TAK TAK TAK TAK

SHOOP!

CHOMP

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

WAIT UP!!

VOOSH

FWAP

ポサッ

HMM ?

YO, MAIKO

I SAY ... WE CALL IT A NIGHT ...

WELL ...

Waah!!

SIGH ...

DUDE, THAT'S THE 96TH GIRL WHO'S REJECTED US TO-NIGHT.

Japan.

EVERY LOSING STREAK COMES TO AN END!

HEY ...

Love Charm

...

OH, HONEY PIE!!

YOWZA! LOOK AT THE YUKATA-CLAD BEAUTY!!

EVEN FROM THE BACK, I CAN TELL WE HAVE A WINNER!!

ポサッ!
PLOP!

Love Charm

Love Charm

ドグシャ!!
KAPLOW

ギャアア
HYAAAAH
アアアア

OH! THERE IT IS!!

IS THIS YOURS?

HEY ...

THANK YOU SO MU...

YEESH! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE ...

I THINK IT WENT THIS WAY...

HAHH

HAHH

STILL HAVE TO FIND CHITOGE, TOO...

...

WHAT?

AT LEAST KEEP TRACK OF YOUR OWN STUFF, WOULD YA?

THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE BUYING?

PLUNK

ポン

BUT I REALLY DON'T GET IT.

THE OBI'S SO TIGHT, I CAN BARELY WALK ...

HOW COME EVERY-ONE WEARS THESE?!

I HAD CLAUDE FETCH ME A YUKATA.

And instructions for putting it on...

HEY... WHEN DID YOU CHANGE ?!

WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

I WAS CURI-OUS, OKAY ?

HOW COME?

*NOTE: AN OBI IS THE SASH OF A YUKATA OR KIMONO.

NO...

ACTUALLY, YOU LOOK... ... GREAT.

I PROBABLY LOOK RIDICULOUS, ANYWAY.

HMM ?

WELL, MAYBE I'LL DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR ...

OH... ...

karma
2) Unrequited love will be reciprocated
3) When presented to a woman, signifies marriage proposal

WELL, HOW ABOUT THAT?

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP KARMA, HUH?

HE ACTUALLY BELIEVES THIS STUFF? WHAT A CHILD!

Love Charm Powers:

LOVE CHARM?

1) Positive relationship karma
2) Unrequited love will be reciprocated
3) When presented to a woman, signifies a marriage proposal

OH, THAT THING HE BOUGHT.

HMPH. I FINALLY FIND HER...

...AND SHE'S WEARING A YUKATA NOW?

NO FAIR! THAT'S CHEATING!

HARD TO IMAGINE HIM HAVING ANYONE LIKE THAT IN HIS LIFE...

A MARRIAGE PROPOSAL, HUH?

Heh heh!

ISN'T THIS KIND OF THING REALLY FOR GIRLS?

BESIDES, I FEEL KIND OF BAD FOR LOSING TRACK OF CHITOGE...

...BUT NOW I GUESS I FEEL KIND OF SILLY.

I WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GET THIS LOVE CHARM...

WELL, MOVING RIGHT ALONG...

WAIT... NO FAIR? WHAT DO I MEAN BY THAT?!

HEY, CHITOGE ...

WHAT ?

HERE. YOU HAVE IT.

WHAT ?!

WH...

IS SHE BLUSHING, OR IS IT MY IMAGINATION?

WHAT GIVES? HOW COME SHE'S SUDDENLY SO FLUSTERED?

OH, WELL, YOU KNOW ...

I MEAN... WELL... BUT WHY...

YEESH. IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY?!

WHAAAT?!

OF COURSE I'M SERIOUS!

WAIT... FOR REAL?!

Take it!

HUH?

W- WAIT !!

W- WHY WOULD YOU GIVE ME THIS?

YOU'RE NOT SERI- OUS, ARE YOU?

WHY'S SHE ACTING SO WEIRD?

MAYBE SHE REALLY WANT- ED ONE...

ドキ TWITCH

ドキ TWITCH

MAYBE SHE'S A REGULAR GIRL AFTER ALL...

THAT'S WEIRD. GUESS SHE REALLY WANTED A LOVE CHARM.

DOES THIS MEAN HE'S...

WHY?!

HE'S SERIOUSLY PROPOSING MARRIAGE?!

N-NO WAY!! I MEAN... WHAT THE HECK?!

LUB DUB バックン..

LUB DUB バックン..

LUB DUB バックン..

LUB DUB バックン..

WELL, YEAH ...

That's pretty ballsy!!

AND YOU DECIDED JUST LIKE THAT?!

WHAT ?!

UH... I DUNNO... SINCE JUST NOW I GUESS.

HOW LONG ?

ドキ LUB DUB

HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT THIS WAY?

HOW ...

LUB DUB ドキ

SHOOP

HMM? WHAT'S WRONG?

OH NO!!

JOLT

ビクッ!

I-I WASN'T PREPARED FOR THIS!!

THEY SAY LOVE CAN BE SUDDEN, BUT STILL...

AND DECIDED TO PROPOSE ON THE SPOT?!

SO HE JUST NOW REALIZED HIS FEELINGS FOR ME?

FLUSTER もん

FLUSTER もん

FLUSTER もん

FLUSTER もん

ズル…

SHLFF

OH NO!!

ズル…

SHLFF

WHAT'LL I DO? IT'S TOTALLY FALLING OFF!!

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

WH-WHAT?!

WHAT SHOULD I DO...

MY OBI'S COMING LOOSE! MAYBE I TIED IT WRONG...

STAY BACK!!

N-NO!

HERE, LET ME HELP YOU...

YOU OKAY?

THAT'S A COMMON MIS-TAKE!

HUH?

I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO!

HOW COME YOU'RE NOT WEARING UNDER-WEAR?

NO!!

STAY BACK!! I'M NOT WEARING ANYTHING UNDER-NEATH!!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TIE AN OBI, BUT I CAN TRY TO REFASTEN IT FOR YOU...

WHAT?!

DON'T TOUCH ME!!

LOOK... JUST CALM DOWN, OKAY?

OH NO... IT'S REALLY FALLING OFF!

I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP!!

I AM NOT!!

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU PERV!!

NOW YOU'RE IMAGINING IT, AREN'T YOU!!

I...I NEED MORE TIME TO THINK!!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THIS?

ゴニョ-

BLUSH

GAH!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

WHY'D YOU GIVE ME THAT THING, ANYWAY?

WHAT HAS THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT??

NO!!

MY OBI!!

THINK ABOUT WHAT?

WHY'RE YOU MAKING SUCH A BIG FUSS ABOUT...

PAH

FWP

ドサ!

SMAK

!!!!!!

DON'T LOOK AT ME!!

GAH! FORGET IT, OKAY!!

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT!!

I HAD NO IDEA, OKAY?

YUM!

I like it!

I DIDN'T REALIZE RAKU DEAREST COULD BE SUCH AN ANIMAL!

WOW...

ドキ LUB DUB

ドキ LUB DUB

ドキ LUB DUB

WISH I COULDA SPENT MORE TIME WITH ICHIJO...

Too late... You gave it to me!
No!
Why?
If you don't want it, give it back!!
Bleh!

...SO HE GAVE IT TO ME CHEAP INSTEAD!

A FRIEND BOOKED IT AND HAD TO CANCEL...

TMP TMP

ゾロ

TMP TMP

ゾロ

WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SCORED US A ROOM SO CLOSE TO THE BEACH!

GOOD THING WE'RE ALL FREE!

SUMMER'S ALMOST OVER...

WE'VE GOTTA AT LEAST GO TO THE BEACH!

HA! YOU JUST WANNA SEE GIRLS IN SWIM-SUITS!

# Chapter 44: At the Beach

LAST ONE IN IS A ROTTEN EGG!

WOO HOO! I'M SO EXCITED!

HEY!

MINE WAS IN THE MALDIVES... JUST LOOKING, NOT SWIMMING.

MY LAST TIME WAS IN NORTH CAROLINA!

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A BEACH IN JAPAN BEFORE...

WHAT ARE YOU, CELEB-RITIES?

Not that my life's super normal...

SHAHH

FWHSH

YAAAY!

IT'S...

...THE OCEAN!!

WAHOO!

HMPH!

HOW 'BOUT LENDING A HAND WITH THE BEACH UMBRELLA?!

どよ OGLE

どよ OGLE

どよ OGLE

どよ OGLE

MODELS FROM A MAGA-ZINE SHOOT?

ARE THEY MOVIE STARS?

NOT THAT I KNOW OF...

LIKE, ULTRA HIGH-LEVEL, DUDE!

HOLY...

WHASSUP WITH THE BABE-A-LICIOUS CREW?!

JABBER

ザワ

JABBER

ザワ

JABBER

ザワ

Why'd I let you talk ...me into this, Mis- ...tress?

GET USED TO IT!

GIMME A BREAK! WE'RE AT THE BEACH.

TOLD YOU I SHOULD HAVE JUST WORN A SUIT...

WELL, WELL!

WHAT'S WITH THE GIRLY SWIMSUIT, SEISHIRO?

OH, COME ON.

IF YOU'VE GOT 'EM, FLAUNT 'EM!

Huh?

ACK! I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE THIS HUGE CHEST!

STARE

GAWK GAWK じろじろ

GAWK GAWK じろじろ

TSUGUMI, THESE ARE AMAZING!

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT! TALK ABOUT BOUNCY!

Stop it!

MISTRESS! NOT YOU, TOO!! KYA HA HA HA!

WAA!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE... BWA HA HA HA!

GOT-CHA!

GRAB

You weren't kid-ding!

UN-ACCEPT-ABLE!

BOO! THEY'RE BIGGER THAN MINE!!

HUH? WHAT KIND OF QUES-TION IS...

WHAT'VE YOU BEEN EATING, TSUGUMI?

TIP TOE...

A...

C...C... B...

HEY...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, ANYWAY?

LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE TOTALLY FORGOTTEN WE'RE HERE...

DUDE... ...

LUB DUB

ドク

ドク...

LUB DUB

HEY THERE, HOT STUFF...

DUDE! THE SCENERY HERE IS CRAZY, BROTHER!

OH, MAN... THAT ONE'S GOTTA BE AN F-CUP!

WHOA! IS THAT AN E?! ROCK ON!

B... B...

...THE LADY'S WITH ME.

ぬっ

Right?

SORRY, GUYS...

WHAT?!

HUH?

HOW 'BOUT HAVIN' SOME FUN WITH US?

WHERE ARE YOU FOXY LADIES FROM?

TMP

TMP ゾロ ゾロ..

MAN, I WISH I HAD A ROCKIN' GIRLFRIEND LIKE THAT!

YOU HEARD HIM, BOYS. THE BABE'S TAKEN!

ソロ TMP

TMP ソロ...

LAY OFF WITH THE SPEECHLESS DISBELIEF, PAL.

OKAY, OKAY...

...BUT I STILL MAKE YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?

IT MAY BE JUST AN ACT...

NOT BAD, RIGHT?

Oh, brother.

HUH?

OH, RAKU DARLING! WOULD YOU COME HERE A MOMENT, DEAREST!

KA POW

IF THEY KNEW WHAT YOU WERE REALLY LIKE, THEY'D RUN FOR COVER!

Honda, right?

HAVE YOUR ATTENDANT DO IT!

WAIT... WHY ME?!

SNARL

ANOTHER BLATANT LIE!!

STARTING TODAY, I'M AFRAID HONDA HAS A TERRIBLE AVERSION TO SUN-SCREEN!

HUH?!

...AS TO APPLY MY SUNSCREEN FOR ME?

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND...

SUN EXPOSURE IRRITATES MY SKIN.

I APPRECIATE YOUR KIND OFFERS...

...BUT I REALLY FEEL MY DARLING RAKU WOULD DO THE BEST JOB!

I'll do it! I'll do it!

ME TOO! ME TOO!

ERK わきゅ ERK わきゅ

EXCUSE ME, BUT WOULD YOU MIND BACKING OFF MY MAN?!

I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP WITH YOUR SUNSCREEN!

WHAT?

BUT I WASN'T..

QUIT DROOLING, RAKU!!

KA POW!!

Second time today

むっ GRRR

うぅ RRR!!

HUH?! BUT I NEVER SAID...

ギュッ!! SQUEEZE

OH, RAKU SWEETIE!

BE A DEAR, WON'T YOU?

TUNK

...WHY DOES IT EVEN BOTHER ME?

HONESTLY...

ゴソ...

RUMMAGE

THAT JERK! WHAT A HORN DOG!

HMPH!

WHAT?!

YOU CAN HAVE THIS.

OH... RIGHT...

Love Charm

HUH?

...WHAT WOULD I HAVE SAID?

IF HE REALLY HAD PROPOSED TO ME...

...

THEN AGAIN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BOUGHT THAT THING WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT IT MEANT!

THAT IDIOT.

GAWD, HOW EMBAR-RASSING!

はぁ～
Whew...

...JUST SAY NO?

THEN WHY DIDN'T I...

DREAM ON! I MEAN... HIM?!

BWA HA HA HA! NO WAY!

YEAH, RIGHT!

THAT AIN'T HAPPENING! NOPE!

WE'RE A FAKE COUPLE. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

RATS.

RIGHT!

WE'VE GOT ACCESS TO A BARBECUE...

OKAY. LET'S DECIDE WHO'S ON DINNER DUTY.

SO BASICALLY, I'M ON MY OWN?

GREAT. YOU AGAIN.

THANKS IN ADVANCE, RAKU!

LOOKS LIKE THE LOVEBIRDS ARE OUR COOKS!

I MEAN, IT TOTALLY MAKES SENSE...

ゴゴゴゴ…
BRRRM…

COME TO THINK OF IT...

Let's see...

...we'll need paper plates and cups.

I'VE BEEN PRETTY MUCH WITH RAKU CONSTANTLY...

...SINCE COMING TO JAPAN!

SINCE WE'RE PRETENDING TO BE DATING...

YES. I CAN'T!

WHAT?

OKAY. I'LL PEEL THE VEGGIES...

CAN YOU DO THAT?

YOU CUT THEM INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES.

HA! I CAN DO WHATEVER NEEDS TO BE DONE!

...SO EVEN YOU CAN HELP, RIGHT?

OKAY. WE'RE BARBECUING TONIGHT...

OH, TO HAVE YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE...

KA-CHONK ズ……

トン…

KA-

トン…

FSHH…

HUH?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GRABBED ME.
WHAT GIVES?! DON'T TOUCH ME, ALRIGHT?
HEY!
!
SHOOP
TOK
SHOOP
TOK
WELL, TRY TO BE MORE CAREFUL!
OKAY, OKAY...
MAYBE SO, BUT...
SO WHAT? IS THAT AGAINST THE LAW?!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LEAVING YOUR HAND THERE!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET A POTATO!
SHE'S ACTING EXTRA WEIRD TODAY...
WHAT GIVES?
...
?
HUH?!
KA-FWAM
WHAT THE...

SHUDDER

+7,,

IT'S TOTALLY NORMAL. NO BIG DEAL!

WE'VE HELD HANDS PLENTY OF TIMES, PRETENDING WE'RE A COUPLE...

WHY AM I GETTING SO FREAKED OUT OVER OUR HANDS TOUCHING?!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

THIS'LL MAKE IT BETTER...

HERE, LEMME SEE. I'VE GOT A BAND-AID...

BE CAREFUL, WOULDJA?

I KNEW IT.

I cut my finger!

AIIEE!!

C'MON, LEMME SEE!

YOU DON'T WANT A SCAR ON YOUR HAND, DO YOU?

YOU'RE A GIRL, AFTER ALL.

RAKU, YOU'RE AWE-SOME!!

WHOA! THAT'S GOOD!

LET'S EAT!!

ALL RIGHT, GANG!

...?

CHOMP CHOMP モグ"...

I thought barbecue was the same no matter who cooked it...

..Oh, Raku darling! You're wonder-ful!

Ha! The difference is in the selection and preparation of the ingredients, my friend!

ICHIJO?

HMM?

IT'S NOT HER FAULT, BUT I COULD'VE DONE IT FASTER ALONE!

I KNEW I'D END UP DOING MOST OF THE WORK MYSELF!

PHEW. I'M BEAT!

SHA SHAAA

IT KINDA SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING'S BOTHERING HER...

I DON'T KNOW WHY...

YOU THINK SO TOO?

Maybe she doesn't feel well.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND CHITOGE?

HUH?

CAN I JOIN YOU?

O-ONO-DERA?!

UH... SURE!

OH.

CHI-TOGE'S WITH THEM.

DOING ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS TO SEE WHO'S ON CLEAN-UP DUTY.

WHAT'S EVERY-ONE UP TO?

SHA-SHAAA

OH...

WAIT A SEC...

ONODERA, YOU CAN'T SWIM, RIGHT?

Did you still have fun?

OH...

YEAH, IT'S OKAY.

WE DIDN'T TALK TO EACH OTHER MUCH BACK THEN.

ME NEITHER.

BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH...

...I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED WE'D BE AT THE BEACH TOGETHER!

IT'S STRANGE, ISN'T IT?

DID YOU HAVE FUN, ICHIJO?

WISH WE HAD MORE TIME, THOUGH!

YEAH, TOTALLY!

GUESS THOSE CONFECTION-MAKING SKILLS SURE HELP WITH OTHER ARTISTIC PURSUITS!

CLAP

ど"ーん

CLAP

Oh, wow!

Ta-daa!

I LIKE DOING STUFF LIKE THIS AT THE BEACH!

NOW, IF ONLY I COULD SAY SOMETHING CHARMING...

IT'S ACTUALLY GOING PRETTY WELL!

HEY, THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T AWKWARD AT ALL!

AND THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO?!

RATS! HERE WE ARE IN THIS ROMANTIC SITUATION...

IT SURE IS!

THE OCEAN... SURE IS BEAUTI-FUL...

MY MIND'S A COMPLETE BLANK!!

I GUESS...

...I REALLY LOVE HIM.

SOMEHOW...

THIS IS SO FUN...

...JUST TALKING WITH ICHIJO MAKES ME FEEL GREAT.

YES...

IT'S SO NICE BEING WITH HIM.

I WISH THIS MOMENT...

...WOULD LAST FOREVER...

I GUESS WE SHOULD HEAD BACK TO THE INN.

WHERE'S RAKU AND ONO-DERA?

I'LL GO FIND THEM.

HEY THERE!

KOSAKIII ...

THERE THEY ARE!

OH!

UM...

ICHIJO?

CAN I KISS YOU?

Don't laugh at me.
It's just what came out.
...
THUNK
THUNK
トン…
トン…
By What the does way...
"Yes. I can't!" mean?